

# OPENING OF SCHOOL EDITION

# THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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ANDREW DUPUIS/BELL RINGER

**IT'S HERE:** The final touches have been added to the much-anticipated 211,900 square foot parking garage / soccer field complex. Students will be able to take advantage of the indoor parking this year.

## Campus changes start to take shape

Garage ready to go, Lowry building expected by January

By John Mellow  
co-News Editor

During the second semester last year, I watched from the debate building as the new Lowry Building began to rise up from nothing. First there was the concrete foundation, then one level of steel, then another, and then another. Progress was slowly being made on the next phase of campus expansion here at Montgomery Bell.

Rumor has it that at one point Ingram and Massey Commons were in just the same stages of construction.

Before that there was the Davis Building and the small gym. MBA has been aggressively expanding for decades. But that's another story. For now, let's focus on what's been completed since we left campus, and what the plans are for the immediate future. I spoke with Mr. Jackson, Director of Finance and Operations at MBA, to find out what's been happening.

Construction began on campus in June 2010, after finally acquiring all of the houses the school needed on Brighton Road. The old tennis courts and Brighton Road were both torn down. Not much happened again until this April, when the first wave of construction was completed and opened. The new cut-through street behind campus

>> CONSTRUCTION, P11

## Students exposed to mathematics and science through new Wilson programs

By Scott Blackwell  
Staff Writer

As many of you know, the Wilson Foreign Language Grants have given more than 26 MBA students the chance to polish their language skills in a foreign country over the past two summers. You may not be aware, however, that the Wilson family has also taken the initiative in sponsoring other programs, such as a two-week math camp at MBA for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Taught by Mrs. Qian, Andrew Powell, Coach Golenor, and Mr. Deutsch, the campers learned about such topics as number theory, chaos theory, logic, and advanced geometry (the camp also involved a lot of Clue-playing and riddles). When asked if he would recommend the program to other students, Joe Scherrer said, "If you like math enough to spend a few hours over the

summer doing it, yes! It's fun and you probably wouldn't otherwise get a chance to learn this stuff in high school."

In addition to providing a new medium for MBA mathletes to enhance their knowledge base and thus their formidability, the Wilson family has also generously provided several new grants for other summer programs, both internships and more traditional summer courses. The students that received these grants are: Jordan Pugh (NC State, engineering), Robert Hoover (Penn State, architecture), DeCoursey Beach (Vanderbilt, PAVE), Ford Saunders (Vanderbilt, PAVE), Hamilton Millwee (Boston U.), Christopher Byrne (Vanderbilt, VUMC), John Triplett (Clemson U., science and engineering), and Christopher Burrus (U. of Michigan, engineering). I also got a chance to talk to a few of the recipients about their experiences

>> MATH & SCIENCE, P.6

## Big Red ready for 113<sup>th</sup> season of football

By George Swenson  
Sports Editor

MBA's new varsity football coach, Marty Euverard, was introduced to football at a very young age in his hometown of Rogersville, Tennessee. Playing since the age of seven, "Coach Eu," as he is more easily addressed, went on to play at Cherokee High School and in college at MTSU.

With his playing days behind him, he looked toward coaching and developing the talents of aspiring football players. The transition from player to coach can be challenging. Coach Eu. recounts, "As a player, you are focused solely on your position and playing your best, while a coach must be focused on all the positions and how they fit together."

He had brief stints at his alma mater, Cherokee High School, then at Father Ryan and in Clarksville. Coach Eu was named the head coach of Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, where he later went on to win a class 5A State. Additionally, he was named the head coach of Jefferson County in 2007 and BGA in 2010. His journey has been nothing but spectacular, but it is not the wins and losses that provide the reasons that Coach Eu. coaches, as he himself admits: "Although the wins are nice, I enjoy watching the boys grow into young men equipped to change and overcome adversity."

With a new man in charge of the football program, changes are inevitable. Coach Eu. looks to implement an offense different from last year's. This year MBA will be switching to a multiple, pro-style offense, which will predominantly feature one running back as opposed to last year's offense. Defensively, the Big Red will be characterized by a powerful 4-3 configuration with four defensive linemen up front and three linebackers behind

>> COACH, P20

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## THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to [bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com](mailto:bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com) (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

# What is the opinion section?

The section editor shares his thoughts on putting the “student” back into student journalism

By McKay Proctor  
*Opinions Editor*

I'm struggling with how to approach something as nebulous as my opinion about how you (that's right you! The reader!) read the Opinion Section without falling into a rant.

In reality, one of the main problems with this section in general is that it's widely seen as buffer between the shiny stuff on the front page and the class news. The mildly dismissive attitude directed at the Opinion Section is not necessarily the fault of the student body. In order to fulfill its potential, this section has to walk a thin tightrope between humorous rants and dusty restatements of fact. While I inherit the editorship of the Opinion Section from a line

of capable people, looking back, they all seem to have fallen to one side of that continuum or the other. The Op-Ed Section is either a pulpit for heavy-handed political discourse, or a stand-up stage, but rarely a mix.

The purpose of the Opinion Section is to help develop more informed and thoughtful student body, which fundamentally cannot be accomplished by articles that students find disinteresting (read: boring), and is equally impossible if the staff commits only to entertainment (read: spend ink writing jokes). I am fully capable of finding a staff of writers that can fill my billing with high-minded Opinion on current events, and I can fill it with joke articles about life on the Hill, but in both cases I'm selling out the student body. The difficulty lies in finding the medium between relevance and content.

Gripping about the state of the Opinion Section is far easier than remedying it. The question becomes finding the mean. So, what am I going to do with my shiny new Opinion Section? The answer for how to make this section new is to look to the old. *The Bell Ringer* is student-run, that is the fundamental principle behind its operation. The floor is technically always open for students to write for the paper. Montgomery Bell Academy is also a fairly opinionated place. Everyone here feels “ways” about “stuff.”

So, in the spirit of student journalism, I suppose I'll reiterate what has long been the policy: if you have an opinion you can articulate about something-anything within reason- then there is room for you in the Opinion Section.

## Don't be “that guy”: taking a critical look at the MBA lunch-line

Students need to start taking responsibility, writes contributor Andrew Einstman

By Andrew Einstman  
*Staff Editorialist*

Writing about the inefficiency in MBA's lunch line couldn't possibly hold water as a criticism of the faculty who are faced with the dilemma of monitoring the hordes of students pouring into the Davis Building during the middle of the school day. Ask anyone from 6<sup>th</sup> period last year, who reluctantly marched to the back of the mob, cursing under his breath, having been bombarded with the verbal manifestation of Colonel Sharbel's warranted frustration.

The problem undoubtedly begins with the students who sprint across campus fearing that the hefty annual sum our parents pay for our midday feasts will somehow yield but a meager crust of bread and a splash of creek water if they don't get to the line soon enough. However, this annoyance proves to be just the tip of the iceberg.

The frenzy that these few students make lunch out to be only leads to a prime example of mob mentality. We do what the guy next

to us is doing. It's kind of like a school of fish or a pack of lemmings running off a cliff.

Seeing someone so frantic about anything can lead to at least a mild amount of internal distress. It's survival instinct. So, once the mad dash to the line is complete (an inconvenience in khakis), the insanity only continues. Panting, sweaty zombies, we jostle for position only to ultimately be passed by a senior.

Whether you manage to squeak to the front or chronically linger towards the back (seemingly the same guys in the same positions every day), it always ends up the same way: a routine tray of food and the same group of fine young Big Reds with whom you find yourself everywhere, including the lunch table that you and your group frequent within Frist Hall.

All of these factors lead to a lunch eerily similar to the one you had yesterday, and the day before that, and the day before that....so what's the big deal? Why rush and push and struggle, striving for a result you would meet in the end even without the effort? Why can't we just form an orderly single file line or two?

The answer: THAT GUY. There is always that one guy trying to squirm through the cracks, elbow his way through only to receive his lunch approximately 2 minutes sooner. Ironically enough, That Guy is usually the first to finish his meal and spend the last 35 minutes of his free period doing what That Guy tends to do best: nothing. The problem That Guy presents is simple. When everyone in line who is minding their own business and playing by the rules spots someone trying to cheat his way to victory, internal defense mechanisms spring to attention (again, instincts). Abandoning their posts in line, everyone tries to cut That Guy off, leading to a melee, a blur of Polos, short guys sprawled out on the floor groping for safety, and random holes in the walls.

Everyone is guilty of defending his post at some point to counter That Guy's offensive, and many are even guilty of being That Guy, usually wishing to draw laughs from his peers but instead eliciting jeers regarding his mother.

So, gentlemen, as we enter another much anticipated year here upon The Hill, I, as a member of the student body, plead to each and every one of you individually. Please. Don't be That Guy.



Zia

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# A rather poor standard: what the credit downgrade means

## Will Stewart reflects on austerity in a time of economic uncertainty

By Will Stewart  
Staff Opinion Sharer

With the passage of the Budget Control Act of 2011, the government narrowly managed to avoid hitting the debt ceiling, an occurrence which would have prevented any further governmental spending until a bill passed raising said debt ceiling. This occurred despite the best efforts of the Tea Partiers, who I can only assume were trying to accomplish their ultimate goal of returning the country to a pre-industrial, Jeffersonian, agrarian republic.

But I'm not here today to discuss the numerous shortcomings of the Tea Party; I believe another article is covering that. See, even though the debt ceiling was raised and a crisis was averted, there are still some naysayers out there looking to the fact that Standard & Poor, one of the three nationally recognized agencies that issue credit ratings for sovereign states and companies, downgraded the United States credit rating from AAA to AA+. This is the first time the government has ever had a rating below AAA, so many assumed it would have an enormous impact on our economic standing, possibly even resulting in the metaphorical Hindenburg of economics: a double-dip recession.

Indeed, as soon as the downgrade was announced, global stock markets declined, with all three of the major US stock indices declining 5-7%. There is also now the threat

of increased interest rates, which up to this point have been kept at record lows by the Fed, in an effort to finance US debt.

On the other hand, US treasury bonds, the very subject of the downgrade, saw an increase in price after the announcement. This seemingly counterintuitive effect resulted from the fall in the stock market after the announcement, which caused investors to flee to the bond market, bonds still being stronger than stocks, which caused bond prices to rise, reminding us all how backward and perception-based the modern economy is.

Additionally, the dollar increased in strength against the Euro and the British pound, though that was caused more by the monkeyshines currently taking place in the European markets.

Perhaps most importantly, the legitimacy of the downgrade itself must be questioned. Although Standard & Poor did lose faith in America's ability to pay back its debts, both Moody's and Fitch, the other two of the Big Three credit-rating agencies, kept the country at their equivalent of a AAA rating. S&P themselves also made a \$2 trillion error in their calculation of the United States' projected debt, casting further doubt on the credibility of the downgrade.

What many fail to see is that the mounting debt our country is currently dealing with is not the cause of our economic woes, but the symptom of a greater, underlying problem our country faces, namely, a lack



GOOGLE IMAGES

**SETTING THE STANDARDS:** Behind those unassuming windows lurk the men and women who decided to downgrade the credit rating of U.S. debt. The policy implications are enormous

of investment and consumption.

As globalization moves forward and Americans lose their jobs to foreign workers, as technological development decreases the need for human labor, and as an ever aging population of baby-boomers stops buying nearly as much as they did in the days of their youth, consumption and demand see a marked decrease. The government tries to combat this with the

artificial measure of debt spending, and now this practice is catching up to us in the form of our ridiculously high national debt.

Thus, the anti-Keynesian practice of limiting spending in any amount only further limits economic growth. Until the government realizes this, the national debt will not be reduced, and the dangerous brinkmanship which defined the most recent debt negotiations will continue.

# Ain't no party like a Tea Party

A dangerously political mood has overcome the country, writes John Mellow

By John Mellow  
co-News Editor

Until last month, I was fine projecting problems on Washington. Last month, I believed Washington was broken. Last month, I believed that if more politicians would vote on their values instead of worrying about reelection, American government would become the truly representative democracy that the people dream of. Voters would be able to identify with whom they agree. Politicians wouldn't have to lie or dodge questions. Maybe government would work better.

And then there was the debt ceiling crisis.

I watched the media blame both sides for the oncoming crisis, and for stretching out the debate until the last day before we hit the ceiling. What should have been a compromise – a fifty-fifty split between tax hikes and budget cuts – became just budget cuts. When the Tea Party didn't accept this, the President was even willing to try entitlement reform, giving up his best campaign strategy for 2012 (scaring the elderly by telling them that Congressman Paul Ryan and the Republicans were going to try entitlement reform with the Ryan Plan) in order to reach a compromise. Still, the Tea Party held out. Eventually, a

compromise was reached in spite of them. The compromise, according to Majority Leader Boehner, was "98 percent" of what the Republicans wanted, yet half the Tea Party Caucus in Congress (28 out of the 60 members) still voted against it. The Tea Party was unable to compromise. The Tea Party was willing to let the country default. And, still, the media spent more time talking about how Washington was broken than pinning the blame on who was responsible. The perpetrators escaped and the narrative that Washington is broken continued, allowing people to hate Congress. So, how did we get here?

Let's start at the beginning, shall we? And at the risk of sounding like a Republican presidential candidate, this story begins with Ronald Reagan. Reagan ushered in the new conservative era, and he ushered it in with witty remarks and a folksy smile. After 50 years of the New Deal Coalition (the American left) in power, Reagan and his Moral Majority began to corrode faith in government and replace it with cynicism. He once joked that the nine most feared words in the English language were "I'm from the government and I'm here to help". When he was president, public approval of Congress averaged around 40% according to Gallup. It continued to decline as the conservative movement gained power.

Congressional approval hovered around 35% during the Clinton administration when Newt Gingrich took control of Congress. The rise of the right through talk radio, Fox News, and political power, all of which has really occurred in the last twenty years, has corresponded with a steep decline in the American people's trust and faith in government. People hate that government is always compromise, never what *they* want. For the last twenty years, people have been taught to believe that government cannot work, and it feeds into their disapproval of government. At the end of Bush's term, Congressional approval was around 25%.

So, what happens when people are conditioned to hate government? Populist sweeps happen. 1994 and 2010 happen. The people identify with politicians who hate government. Imagine making an atheist pope. If it sounds self defeating, maybe it's because it is. Am I the only one who notices that we are putting people in charge of government who hate government?

And, the populist sweeps have another effect. They create an anti-incumbency mood. They promote new politicians who don't know how to govern. These politicians are anti-incumbents. Many in the Tea Party Caucus are new Congressmen who don't care about reelection, can't be bribed by pork barrel

spending, and won't compromise their values for the greater good of government. They don't play by the rules of Washington because the media and the people who elected them believe Washington is broken. Compromise becomes impossible. In the place of compromise comes partisanship.

Suddenly, the idea of a broken Washington that swept these people into power becomes reality, a self-fulfilling prophecy. Congressional approval, according to a CNN poll this week, is at 14%. So the cycle continues. The Congressmen elected in populist sweeps are not beholden to anyone and are willing to do something like let the nation default on its debt for their values. Voters believed that this was a good trait when they elected these ideologues. I did too, up until the debt crisis. But now I think that compromise is necessary. Maybe Washington has always worked a certain way that makes people angry, but that can actually get stuff done.

Washington isn't broken when people compromise, and everybody needs to stop saying that it is. Washington's broken when people vote solely on their values. I guess what I'm saying is that leaders need to make pragmatic decisions guided by their values instead of dangerous ultimatums completely kidnapped by them. And the public needs to forgive them for it.



# Playing with fire

Brinksmanship has gone too far in both football and politics, argues McKay Proctor

By McKay Proctor  
Opinions Editor

Last year, 8,600 people across the country were injured in fireworks-related accidents. These are people that lost sight of what was important - keeping all ten of their fingers - and got caught up in the rush of playing with fire. If you spent any amount of time over the summer watching the news or, more realistically, ESPN, you've seen the stories of people in power doing the same: losing sight of the big picture to pursue fleeting satisfaction.

On the news, there was the debate over the debt ceiling; in sports, the NFL lockout occupied the same role. Both of these situations were high-stakes games of chicken. Both sides were out of touch with what the arguments were truly intended to achieve.

The lockout was, from the oversimplified perspective of the average football fan, an argument that was getting in the way of football (note I said oversimplified). What unfolded over the summer never had to be more complicated than that, i.e. both sides realizing that they were putting the season and the game of football at risk and finding middle ground. It ballooned into a hundred-day soap opera of sound bytes, offers, counteroffers, cross

words, and litigation.

To be clear, I do not wish to condemn either side for seeking a fair CBA, but my problem lies with how the issue snowballed into a three-month squabble that risked abridgement or even cancellation of the NFL season. At the same time, neither side is at fault, and both sides are.

It's all well and good that the millionaires and billionaires, as some fans started to call the sides late in the drama, want to argue about points on the package. In all fairness, they have a right to. The NFL is a business, and the workers need to be happy. The problem lies in just how detached these negotiations were from the reality of the business's consumer, the fan. It seems, at least from where I'm sitting, that the players and owners spent one hundred days hashing and rehashing the deal without even the slightest consideration of what Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Football-fan thought of the whole affair.

At the end of it all, the NFL is about football. Not player benefits. Not salary caps. Not revenue sharing. When nine percent of the country can't find jobs, the overwhelming majority of fans could care less about whether Bud Adams has to send the money from the diamond store advertisements inside the luxury boxes in his stadium to the Jaguars because they're

running at a deficit. They just want to feel, for at least three hours on a Sunday afternoon, that the world would work itself out.

Football means too much to the American people to gamble with its future. The owners and players risked that when they decided to get caught up in the minutiae of contracts instead of focusing on football. Sure, a collective bargaining agreement got signed, but with only a month before the schedule started. What was supposed to be only a month-long process had pushed further than ever before and risked more and more the most important part of the league, the football itself.

What I'm driving at mainly is this: both sides came way too close to forsaking what matters because they had their heads down in argumentation.

The parallels that played out in Washington were chilling. In the debt ceiling debate we saw two sides too mired in high principles. They failed because they couldn't find common ground on the issue. If the Federal government had indeed hit its debt ceiling, as projected on August 4, even conservative estimates saw the economy initiating a tailspin. A government with no money to spend, no matter how that money is procured, is not something a recovering economy needs.

That is not to say that all of this deficit spending and borrowing is a good thing, but is to acknowledge the reality that there was no way that the government could have stopped before hitting the debt ceiling. No matter how much was capped, cut, or slashed, the Feds would have gone face-first into a double-dip recession.

The problems came from both sides of the aisle. Regardless of who had to compromise in the end, both sides were caught up in fiddling while Mrs. O'Leary's cow edged toward the lantern. While that mixed metaphor might sound extreme, the American people have seen this movie before. Earlier this year, when an agreement failed to come easily on the budget, both sides got caught up in playing politics while the government edged closer and closer to a shut down.

Is this how far gone some politicians are? Abandoning all pragmatism in favor of harping on high principle? To any clear thinker, the time for playing politics is decidedly different from the time when a country needs its leaders most.

The trend of this anti-pragmatic way of putting off compromise constitutes a cancer in the American decision-making process. It nearly killed the American economy, and it nearly maimed football. We can only hope for the best for the NBA.



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# Introducing the new members of the faculty

Who can recite “Whan that Aprille” by heart? Was in a band signed by Warner Bros. Records? Dislikes the BCS system? Read on and find out!



Angela Klausner,  
Library

BR: What brought you to MBA?  
AK: After sixteen years at BGA, I decided I was up for a new adventure! When the awesome Mrs. Tilley decided to retire, I applied and was delighted to be chosen. I have been a librarian for forever (hence the gray hair) and have worked in public libraries, school libraries, and even in a legislative library. It's my niche, my passion, and I actually have fun every day seeing students and helping them. I have always admired MBA's commitment to excellence, the quality and dedication of its faculty, and the care and concern exhibited for each student. It seemed a natural fit for me, and I feel very fortunate to be here!

BR: Are you more nervous or excited to begin teaching here?  
AK: How about both! But if I had to choose one, it would be excited. I have been a librarian all my life, and I love what I do. My profession has seen a plethora of changes, many radical, during my working career. The information explosion and access to social media have changed the library game. Librarians have had to retool, providing contemporary service as never before. My job, as I see it, is to share with students evolving strategies for gathering information and for evaluating what's out there. It includes reaching out and sharing the pieces that I know, which are



Ying Zhang, Chinese

BR: What brought you to MBA?  
YZ: It is the best school to educate young men.  
BR: Are you more nervous or excited to begin teaching here?  
YZ: I am very excited.  
BR: Do you have any rare, secret talents?  
YZ: I can make dumpling, if that can be considered as a rare talent.  
BR: Which franchise is better, Star Wars or Harry Potter?  
YZ: Star Wars.

ever-changing, so that my students can navigate effectively in a digital community. When MBA students leave this library and move on to a university library, I want them to expect the same visionary service and instruction and caring, helpful relationships that were part of their MBA library experience.  
BR: Would you like to see the BCS system or college football playoffs?  
AK: BCS is terrible. I mean, who can understand this unless you are a statistician? I vote for pure elimination, may the best team win! All of that crazy BCS manipulation does not guarantee a good game. I have to tell you that I really and truly love football. In the fall, I make sure I get to the sports page of the newspaper BEFORE Coach K. Poor guy, but he'll get over it, because I'm the one who makes the java that gets us both going in the morning.



Gretchen Zimmerman,  
Spanish

BR: What brought you to MBA?  
GZ: Al saber que quería quedarme en Nashville después de la carrera universitaria, opté por trabajar como parte de un ambiente de excelencia académica. Además, es un colegio con una reputación muy fuerte en la comunidad y tenía ganas de volver a concentrarme en la docencia.  
BR: Which extracurricular activities would you like to contribute to at MBA?  
GZ: Ya estoy metida en el anuario, en el programa de Hispanic Achievers, y en el equipo de tenis. Hasta que haya también corridas de toros, creo que ya tengo unas oportunidades muy buenas de formar parte de la comunidad.  
BR: Which franchise is better, Star Wars or Harry Potter?  
GZ: Sin duda, lo de Harry Potter. El personaje de Harry y el desarrollo del mundo de Hogwarts son más interesantes que el universo de George Lucas.  
BR: Do you have any rare, secret talents?  
GZ: Siento que sea un poco aburrido, pero puedo leer rápidamente. También, puedo fingir acentos de ciertos partes de los estados unidos en inglés y del mundo hispánico en español.



Matt Hutton, English

BR: What brought you to MBA?  
MH: My wife and I moved to Nashville from Boston three years ago after she got a job at Thomas Nelson Publishing. I had been teaching public school for five years, and as a lifelong singer/songwriter/bandleader, I jumped at the chance to live in Music City. As for MBA specifically, I have always been a big fan of the Renaissance ideal of a classical education and of the Liberal Arts enriching the entire soul of a person. I am really happy to become a part of a community that honors that ideal.  
BR: Which extracurricular activities would you like to contribute to at MBA?  
MH: I'm going to be working with Archives and The Bell Ringer. I also hope to bring my musical background to the table -- a songwriter's circle, guitar lessons, recording, rock history, and rock appreciation. I hear there are some great musicians on campus. I have quite a bit of experience in the business -- my former band, The Red Telephone, was signed to Warner Brothers Records. I would love to be a resource for aspiring musicians.



Rob Dougherty,  
German

BR: What brought you to MBA?  
RD: My family and I decided a year ago to relocate back to Nashville after living in Pennsylvania for the past ten years, as my wife is a native Nashvillian and a Harpeth Hall alumna, and we wanted to be closer to family. I've always known about and respected MBA's position within the community and its commitment to educating and guiding boys into adulthood since my first trip to Nashville in 1993 when I attended a graduation ceremony here. During the course of the past year, I became aware of the position that Herr Sawyer was leaving open, and, because the timing was so perfect, I immediately contacted Mr. Gioia. Since then, every moment of contact I've had with the school, the administration, the faculty and especially the young men has solidified this decision for me and convinced me that this is where I need to be.  
BR: Do you have any rare, secret talents?  
RD: Not many that are very interesting, I'm afraid. I can recite the first 20 lines of Canterbury Tales in Middle English, but I'll admit that it's not really a big hit at parties.

**Check back in the next issue for the other five new faculty!**

by Sam Weien  
Staff Writer

All photos courtesy MBA

## Process of purchasing textbooks gets makeover for the post-bookstore

By Christian Sargent  
Staff Writer

I feel I'm probably justified, albeit speaking on a personal level, in saying that this summer vacation has seemed to be one of the shortest I can remember, quite possibly due to the countless days waking somewhere between noon and three, or the copious amount of required summer reading that has so haunted my time away from the Hill.

However, no matter how short or long a summer vacation may seem away from everyone's

favorite learning establishment, there has always been (and probably always will be) that one point of reference regarding the progress of one's vacation -- the towering stacks of textbooks and workbooks that, over the course of our carefree summer, slowly begin to mount into lofty and foreboding sentinels on everyone's kitchen table.

And, at the risk of tarnishing the worrisome stupor into which summer seems to transform everyone's brain around this time of year, have you ever stopped to wonder from where all those textbooks might

be coming?

Until their depressing disappearances, the MBA book-order system dealt mainly with the Davis Kidd and Borders bookstores. Now, unbeknownst to probably most of the student body (including myself, before taking on the task of researching and writing this article), MBA has joined the technological trend of the rest of the world and decided to, in the bookstores' absences, coordinate the book orders from a purely online company called Follett.

Yes, it is this innovative education-delivery service that

we are to either thank or blame for the stockpile of textbooks with which we all have no doubt found ourselves stuck. Today, Follett generates more than \$2.7 billion in annual sales by providing universities, libraries, and schools with a wide range of educational tools and services, including course materials, e-commerce and software and, of course, every textbook and workbook your little heart desires.

As we meander through summer, Follett busies itself by preparing the books that we will use all year. So, MBA now says goodbye to bookstores and enters



**BANISHING THE BOOKSTORE:**  
*MBA has decided to use online seller Follett for new textbooks. The move is part of a larger trend in the bookselling industry.*

(with a little prodding from the death of real places to buy print media) the twenty-first century of textbook buying.





ANDREW DUPUIS/BELL RINGER

**QUITE A BUSY BUS:** The activity bus takes a well-deserved break in the parking lot. On school mornings, it will travel to one of the four Middle Tennessee counties which MBA currently services with bus routes

## Big Red buses keep on rolling around Middle TN

By Armand Jhala  
Staff Writer

MBA had always been contemplating the idea of a bus system for its students, but only as of last year did the idea become a reality. The head of the operation, Mr. Ferrell, said that the main reason a bus system was put in place was because MBA wanted to expand its presence into neighboring counties, especially Williamson, Rutherford, and Wilson Counties.

MBA is bringing in students this year from 40 different schools and 28 different zip codes, and the school feels that this geographical diversity helps strengthen MBA in every way.

The bus system was deemed a success last year, and MBA has expanded

the bus routes. Mr. Ferrell said that MBA has added a Wilson County route this year, and he hopes to add a bus to a Sumner County route in 2012. MBA looked at the five- and ten-year projected demographics for Middle Tennessee, and Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, and Sumner Counties are all projected to be the fastest growing counties in Middle Tennessee.

Mr. Ferrell went on to say all four of these counties have excellent elementary schools, and the school wants to get the word out about MBA and show boys the opportunities here for potential students in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. In order to do that, the school feels like it needed to provide families a convenient way to get their sons to school each morning.

In addition to the prospect of expanding admissions, the bus system was

also put in place to help families already attending MBA. Mr. Ferrell said that with gas prices on the rise the school feels that buses are a great way to help families economically, since the price is less than \$4 per day for regular riders. Also, there is the added environmental benefit of getting several dozen cars off of the interstates each morning.

The popularity of the system has grown so that MBA has even added a used bus. The bus can also double for use as athletic transportation. Mr. Ferrell said that the bus MBA bought could replace the need for charter buses so it could pay for itself within the first year alone.

It's needless to say that the new bus system has gained a lot of popularity, and it seems that it will stay at MBA for a long time.

## Big Red gets Math and Science experience

>> **FROM MATH, & SCIENCE P.1**  
over the summer.

Bell Ringer: So you got a Wilson Science Grant- where did you go?

Chris Burrus: I went to Ann Arbor, Michigan to the Math and Science Scholars program from July 10th to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Chris Byrne: I went to Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Hamilton Millwee: I went to Boston University for its six week, high school honors course, where we took the same classes as college students WITH college students.

BR: Was it a traditional school environment or more like an internship?

C Bur: The program was very classy, like all about one particular class for 6 hours a day. It was a lot of hands-on work.

C Byr: My experience was more like an internship. I worked with a team of researchers at Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute where I was exposed to many aspects of medical research, but I also got to observe surgery, less-invasive procedures, and learn about medical devices.

BR: What did you do there?

C Bur: The class I took was Mathematics and the Internet, and it detailed different coding methods and encryption processes that determine the way an email is sent. We also created a machine that could use an LED light hooked up to a proto board, which is pretty much a circuit table, and wrote out an entire language in binary coding to the point where we could use it to email our families.

C Byr: The majority of my time was spent reviewing scientific literature to compare the results of two surgical procedures used to treat patients with significant heart disease.

HM: I took classes on Cellular/Neurobiology and Philosophy of science. I also went to numerous presentations on topics ranging from carbon-nanotube creation and preparation to the transformation of bacterium with plasmids to the curing of Parkinson's.

BR: Did you enjoy your time there?

C Bur: Yeah, I loved the program. There was enough work to challenge you but not too much to where it wasn't enjoyable. The program also ties in a great amount of activities outside of the classroom and gives you a lot of freedom around the college campus.

C Byr: Yes, I really enjoyed it, and hope to work on a related project next summer.

HM: I loved getting to meet people from around the globe and talk with the undergrads who were doing internships in labs. It was the best 6 weeks of my life, and it not only allowed me to learn more about science and gave me ideas for research projects, but it also gave me the college experience...staying in the dorms, talking with students there, and taking three-hour long labs and lectures as opposed to just 50 minutes. It was an amazing program, and I thank Dr. Marro, Dr. Dickens, Cdr. Carr and the Wilson foundation for giving me this experience.

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"Hambone" Dalton!!



# Sophomores fling into Fall, dominate H2O

By Wells Hamilton  
Staff News Writer

As the summer wraps up, the Class of 2014 starts its year as the awkward middle children in the high school family, youths known as sophomores.

Sentiments are mixed about the coming year, though most can agree that it's all hype toward the upcoming football season. Grey Reames, when not tweeting to his impressive 100-plus followers, can be found hitting the weights pretty hard. Blake Patton, on the other hand, can be found on the lifeguard stand, breaking the world record for longest sustained flex. I'm surprised he hasn't blown a blood vessel yet. He's more opposed to wearing shirts than Brad Bennet. Alex Bars can also be spotted in the weight room, striving to follow the Bars legacy.

But it's not all football for the sophomores. Samuel Bamigboye has been laxing hard this summer somewhere up north, taking the south to New England. Back home, the infamous Nashville Groove faced tough local opposition from the Nashville Sax, led by Rem Houghton and Ben Barton. Chris Burrus led the opposition valiantly, but in vain.

Also, rowing has received an influx of new athletes. Nick Boney still maintains that he "was in rowing before it was mainstream." Joe Werthan may share similar sentiments, but he isn't smug enough to admit it.

Also, Russel Carpenter is rumored to be adding some flow to the Cross Country team. Speaking of flow, Nick Trogon's hair has evolved from a bowl cut. Check it out some time.

Summer reading has spiked astronomically in the last week of summer. Harrison Davis is not worried, because he

probably finished his summer reading for this summer last summer. Yet, the award for greatest summer reading achievement goes to Ben Yahnian, who was able to read all of *Unbroken* in one day. With that out of the way, it gave Ben much more time to go 'buckwild.' Keith Gambill was less than pleased to learn that the price of *Unbroken* on audiobook was well out of his price range. Stephen Johnson is still puzzling over the concept of a book. Harrison Davies on the other hand, did all of this last summer.

Music hit a high point this summer, with several sophomores racking up intense 1N/13 points by attending musical performances across the country. John Higham showed his dedication to Cage the Elephant by sacrificing his phone to watch the show through the rain. Others lost points by attending the U2 concert half-heartedly. You know who you are, and Tejas Reddy and Jack Thompson know who you are. Names need not be mentioned. Meanwhile, Chippy Evans can't get over how much he loves Nickleback.



**XC ALERT:** Russell "Goldberg" Carpenter is the Sophomore class' new harrier. His back will surely break at some point from putting the team on it.



**HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD:** Christopher Burrus is one of the top contenders for this year's heavyweight title of tubing. His recent accomplishments have caught the eye of many top scouts, and may land this young man a full ride to the college of his choice



**RUN FORREST, RUN:** Ben Yahnian dresses like this often. He loves to be hydrated.



**MESOPOTAMIAN STYLE:** Doing it like Nick Boney takes time and effort that most don't have.

# Freshmen find follies, fun, and lack of fish bites

By Owen Powell  
Staff News Gatherer

In a great improvement from last year, this summer has been successful due to zero shark bites inflicted on any freshman. As many people, such as Davis Luster, asked if Bill Leftwich would appear on Shark Week, Bill simply replied, "they said my bite was too extreme for television."

Our class has lost many friends but gained many as well. MC Poe is doing well in California, playing 2nd-string QB. Cortland Owens is nowhere to be found. Braxton Blackwell is kickin' it with the 8th-grade Lady Lions. CJ Sanders is doing like a champion at BA. Rahn Bailey is still trying new lotions. Finally Derrick "DT15" Tucker got into LANCHESTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY!

Enough with the past...let's talk about the present. New QB Cole Euverard who = Tim Tebow + Jesus/2 is the greatest human being ever. George Anderson Hunt who, on the other hand, = The Pillsbury Dough boy x 2 is a close second. Nathan Smith still is yet to get a hug. Jacob Coffee is BLEEDING! Harrison Lien



**SWAGGER WAGON:** George Hunt always plays it chill with the ladies.

has a country accent. . . Neither he nor I can explain it, and Zach Roberts "Hearts going to new family picnics at school." Finally, Will "give 'em 10" Pearson has officially said goodbye to Lauren Martin FOREVER.

As life in the high school will obviously be different from middle school due to actual dances, football seats, and



**CAUGHT IN THE ACT:** Richard Thornton checks himself out while Wren McFadden stares into the distance.

closer and closer to school-wide respect, we can only wait for our high school careers to begin. George Hunt has already got a smokin date to homecoming BTW. William Richardson is still dating "that girl". Mike Lacey "doesn't talk to girls... they talk to him." Chatham Dobbs and Trice McCullar wonder if they are limited to one homecoming date. Chris Bryne was



**Holy Schniekies Batman:** Bill Leftwich legitimately got bitten by a shark last year

the first to ask someone to homecoming but still is dateless. Kang Huh is sure to get a date. . . his new haircut doesn't cover up any of the cheeks, which renders him quite cute.

Blake Solarek lived in California most of the summer, but he is back now. Blake has been given the honor of assigning nicknames to all of the new freshmen. Logan Taylor invited me to spend the night at his house out in...uh... Hendersonville? Two weeks from now, and Billy Lynch is still yet to feel pain.

Finally, a word of advice to new freshmen: don't mess with Logan Taylor.... he'll forearm shiver you all. You all stay classy.



# Juniors dodge, dip, dive, duck, dodge into new year

By McLean Hudson  
Co-News Editor

Well, I for one am unhappy to be here. I can't be alone in this, but I suppose we'll just have to make the best of a bad situation and start the countdown to Christmas Break... 121 days!

As we get that countdown started, I guess I should talk about junior stuff. I'll start with welcoming back the Wilson Language Grant winners, as we had many members of our class go on trips to Spain, France, Germany, Italy, and even China. I'm supposed to congratulate every grant winner individually, but it's late, and I just don't want to do that. So, I'll mention the ones who responded to my email for the news: Kevin Wang went to Rome to study Rome and Latin, and, wait, that's it.

I do happen to know, however, that John Mellow travelled to China, as he has reportedly returned under the influence of Chinese propaganda. But, he also came back with a full stick of incense for Mr. Herring, so there's some respect there. Also back from China, Hayden Deakins returns having mastered the wu-tang sword style at the Shaolin Temple. Another grant winner, Lucas Littlejohn, reports that he bernied in several famous places in France.

All the juniors that still play football say that the new coach is cool, so that's good. The only real football news, I guess, is that Paul "MP" Moore's new song, "Game Face," is pretty sweet. So, if you haven't heard it, go check it out on Paul's Facebook page. My only complaint would be that he never mentions Ryan Potter leggin' it for field goals.

And now on to the real news: Nick Green reports that Bonnaroo was

awesome, Collin Bishop should now be referred to as Kell Bishop, and Alan Liang dislikes Chicago. Tate Ramsden would like to report that George Swenson fished too much, and Wesley Nealy reports that George definitely did not get a 3 on his AHAP exam. Lucas Fortune is not anyone's homeskillet, and Sam Waitt is sad because he has not grown taller in a year.

Aidan McSharry was not shot in the face by Commander Carr's exam, as expected. He did, however, sustain minor stab wounds and some blunt force trauma to the rear. Reed Cothron had fun at film camp in Cali, where he learned to film a light-saber battle. And, his lungs are still fine. Hamilton Millwee says he hasn't seen anyone from MBA all summer, but that's okay, because he's been into some pretty heavy stuff that's little too hardcore to be printed.

If you see Will McFadden walking around campus with an eagle on his shoulder, it's because his parachute did not open while skydiving, so he had to lasso an eagle and ride it back to its nest, where he helped to raise the baby eagle before killing the mother and taking the baby as his own. Frank Vest wrecked another golf cart, and Jack Rhodes quit football so he could concentrate on baseball and bench press.

Sam Turner broke his leg arm, Robert "Papdaddy" Papel single-handedly built a dock, and 1984 has opened Christian Sargent's eyes to the joys of socialism. Joe Richardson is shaggy and a newp. Apparently Tom Bu got his key stuck in a tree at debate camp. Metaphor? Euphemism? I don't want to know, but I guess I'm proud of you, Tom.

Andrew Graham and the sole newcomer to the junior class, Aaron Jumonville, got big at the Y. Jody Gorham, George Swenson, John Tully, and that

Luke kid made a fort to sleep in one night. Jody and his girl Jeannie Sullivan broke an MBA-SCA barrier by holding hands over the summer. When asked how it felt, he replied "About how I imagine waking up to realize I was in regular chemistry would have felt last year. That and a little sweaty."

J. Carlton Smith decided to start where he left off last year, by reporting that Furman Haynes needs higher standards and, on a different note, that he has taken over with Miss Pirkle for his good friend who does not wish to be named. Jake Macey, cough, Mark Lowe, and Jack Benton ran train in the Hillwood vs. Belle Meade swim meet, topping out at six minutes in the 200 medley relay. Oh, and Macey's in love.

And, now, I bid a sad final farewell to our beloved Andy Seay, who, if you haven't noticed, doesn't go to school with us anymore. He did, however, make an appearance in every class news last year. He and his agent have made the decision that it is time to let go of MBA and, more notably, his place in the class news. We'll miss ya, buddy.

So, I guess that's all. If I missed anything, feel free to keep it to yourself. And, now, I officially welcome you back to school-study hard, eat well, sleep occasionally, and all that MBA stuff. I'm told that junior year is even worse than sophomore year, so, in the words of BL, "here we go."



**DAPPER IS A WAY OF LIFE:** McKay Proctor tips his hat (but mostly sunglasses) to a classy Junior year.



**HOOK, LINE, SINKER:** George Swenson knows how to catch 'em all.



**BYOB:** Lucas Littlejohn always brings his own Bernie. It's the weekend, go 'n let it sink in...



**BIG TIME:** Junior rapper Paul "MP" Moore is on the rise and is reppin' hard



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# Seniors are seniors, finna go ham every day

By Scott Dalton  
Executive Editor

Well, ham to the bone, the class of 2012 has finally arrived in the most bro way possible...in togas. Yes, it is no secret that the bros of '12 know how to throw down and you'd be surprised very much or not at all to find out what some of them have been up to this summer.

**James Kay** started doing hot yoga because apparently "Hershel Walker did it too." No one has the courage to tell him that Hershel Walker had a sub-par professional carrer after being a High School and college star. **Will Davies** continues to be the sloppiest yet most beautiful man on the MBA campus claiming to not know how to tie a tie. However, he still has the ability to woo ladies at his own free will.

**Matthew Davidson** and **Daniel Bellet** participated in Davidson county's BHB contest at the county fair. **Matthew** took the crown in a race that was won by a hair (pun intended?)

**Preston Evans** wanted me to inform you all that **Noah Fardon** has lost his jaws and would really appreciate your help. **James Gold Joyce** literally lost his parking pass within the first 18 minutes of receiving it...is anyone surprised? Seriously though, it's **Jamie**, we love him but that's typical Chaz and double typical Chaz.

**Gray Curtis** continues to be the most deserving of any current MBA student to go to MIT, and we know he will invent the new Facebook some day, but in the meantime, he will play Xbox and be the Smith advisory captain. **Gray** is known for his Axe body spray commercials.

In other news, **Everett Hale Hooper XI** and **John Mark Bellet** can now speak fluent Chinese to each other in broken English. **Jack Whitson** has something in common with China, as he is now planning to become an "extreme iron-er," a sport that involves taking an ironing board to strange locations and ironing his clothes in front of a camera. Based on his skills, this is right up his alley.



**ARE YOU READY TO LUAU?:** Commonly known as 'The Wolfpack' these senior bros all decided to have a bro-fest in a baby pool. Soon, these dudes will begin the charter for  $\beta\Gamma\Phi$ ...GO BEEGEES! Fraternity Credit: David Dalton ('09)

**Daniel Peters** has officially made it to the big time in 'Super Smash Bros.' His current success is much attributed to training with me for the last two years, and much due to the fact that he is indeed a bro. **Logan Standard** and **John Morphis** can share a mutual feeling as both hambones spent most of the summer cradling their respective spoons and chasing lady(s).

**David Arteaga** wants everyone to know that he never shoots from the hip on class officer speeches and that if he had the chance to sleep in his bed, or **megabed**, he would choose **megabed** 24/7. That's 24 hours a week, 7 months a year.

In case you were wondering, **Cayce Ortale**, despite his recent growth spurt, continues to look like toad from 'Mario Kart.' **Baker Swain**, on the other hand, has no current celebrity look-a-like and would really appreciate it if you emailed him 5 words he could use to describe himself for his college essays. **Harris Elledge** and **Dobbs Richards** struggle with that as well.

In breaking news, our very own **Myles Anderson** was reportedly spotted by **Andrew Powell** ('11) to be in the park with a person of the opposite gender. Picture and lab results are still being waited on to determine whether or not it was indeed his female sister.

I think it's safe to say that everyone has missed **Will Logan** this summer as he has been, as John Mayer would say (this one's for you, **Warren Lipscomb**) "Exploring the Great Indoors." We miss you, **Willard!**

Well, fellow men of genius, I must admit to you in a moment of vulnerability, that of all the titles one could receive on The Hill, I, Scott Stephens Dalton the first, am the most proud to have the title of your class news gatherer. As Tupac said, "wars may come and go, but my soldiers stay eternal." As so, I leave you with my favorite quote of all time by one Mark Twain: "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society" [Ed Wilson].



**EXTREME IRONING:** Jack Whitson, do you believe in miracles? Enough said.



**I DONE CHANGED 'DA GAME:** Logan "Loose Cannon" Standard throws his arms up in the air sometimes and squishes photos to comment on post-modernism in the 20th century. Photo courtesy of Claire "Cler" Perrone.



**ALBUM ALERT:** The class of 2012's premiere country/swag band 'Boy Named Banjo' is releasing their debut album extremely soon. Buy a copy immediately if you have any sort of head on your shoulders at all!



**MUSIC IS OUR LIFE:** I think we can all agree that the biggest point of pride within the class of 2012 (whether you choose to admit it or not) is our abundant talent in regard to music. 'What up, English' is no exception with their general bro-manship.



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**WORK IN PROGRESS:** The Lowry Building (left) is slowly starting to take shape. The school will move classes currently held in Wallace Hall to Lowry by the beginning of the second semester. The artist's rendition of the building (right) shows what the finished product will look like from a different angle.

# Big changes on the way for MBA campus

## >> CONSTRUCTION FROM P1

opened in the place of Brighton, and parking behind the gym was greatly expanded. The new tennis court complex also opened last spring. Most of us saw those new additions. So now for the exciting part: Let's see what's coming up.

The new parking garage is built and is be open for the first day of school. Students can only park in the two upper levels of the complex, however, until construction on campus is complete because construction equipment is being housed in the lowest level. When all the parking is available, there will be 300 new spaces.

The garage will also house the maintenance department and rifle range. And, of course, on top is the new soccer field, complete with buildings for restrooms and concessions, and bleachers with a capacity of 750 people. Between the soccer field and the baseball field now also stands the new Big Red Monster for sluggers to aim at come baseball season. All of this will be ready to use this school year.

Next to open will be the aforementioned Lowry Building. It will contain three floors and fourteen new classrooms to help alleviate MBA's growing student body's need for space. The building will also have the much-hyped student

### Long-term plan

June 2010	Construction begins
April 2011	Parking lots / tennis courts completed
August 2011	Parking garage opens
Winter 2011	Old Wallace demolition begins
January 2012	Lowry Building Opens
January 2013	New Wallace opens

center, which I still contend should include a Starbucks. The Lowry Building will also hold the new debate center, which will take the place of the debate building currently on campus.

The Lowry Building is scheduled to open for classes when we return from winter break this year, which would be January 9, 2012. The building will have attached to it a new Pfeffer-like auditorium called the Dead Poets Society Hall to be used for a myriad of art and science

activities from Science Olympiad to Mock Trial to the one-acts. This hall will not be ready for the beginning of the second semester, and there is no clear date right now for completion. But the rest of the building will be ready this year.

During all of this construction, the back portion of campus has also been getting aesthetic upgrades. The new Wilson Avenue entrance is complete with a stone bridge over Kingfisher Creek. That side of campus has been cleared of many bushes and trees to open it up and make it feel more like a school than a jungle. Also, the creek has been landscaped with plants to block off runoff from construction, so that contaminated water does not get in the creek.

Also on the environmental front, I'm sure many of you have noticed the construction on the lower fields. Geothermal wells are being installed to heat and cool portions of the Lowry building and all of the new Wallace Hall. The wells cannot be used to heat more buildings on campus because it is very expensive to retrofit existing buildings for geothermal heating and cooling. Once installed, the lower fields should return to use with the wells working below them, probably by late October

Finally, the building furthest off

in the future is the new Wallace Hall. First, old Wallace has to be torn down and the site cleared, which in itself will take a month. We have to wait for the Lowry Building to open before Wallace is torn down so that we have new classrooms in Lowry to take the place of the ones we lose from old Wallace. This means that the earliest Wallace can be torn down will be Christmas Break.

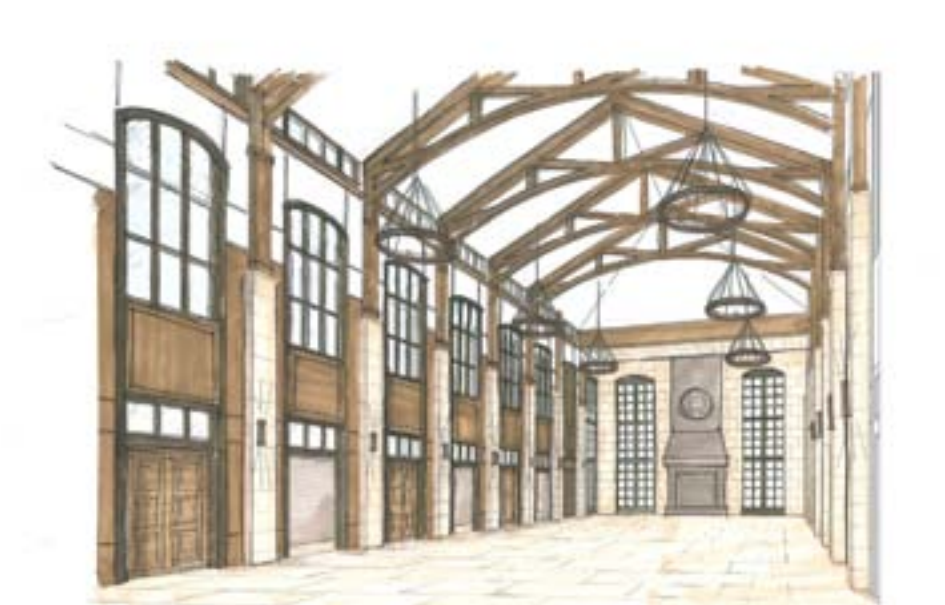
Indeed, that is the plan now. But, the Christmas Break demolition is still very tentative because Mr. Gioia and the Board of Trustees are still working to raise the funds needed. The economic state of the country has lowered construction costs in the past few years but has also made it tougher to raise the money needed for construction.

The building, when complete, will contain the new Hogwarts-esque dining hall and kitchen, a smaller dining hall, and six classrooms. It will stand on the site of the current Wallace Hall. If old Wallace is torn down at Christmas Break, then the very tentative opening date of new Wallace would be a year from then, meaning January 2013, when we return for the second semester of that school year. With Wallace's completion, the newest addition in Montgomery Bell's long history of expansion will be complete. Then, we can start pondering where to go next.

**RELAXING SPACE:** The much-discussed student center will be a large, comfortable space in which students can unwind. All that's missing is a coffee shop.



**BLIMEY, HARRY!:** New Wallace will feature a spacious dining hall. In many ways it evokes the Great Hall of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.





# Time abroad finds students enriched and grateful

By Daniel Mace  
Features Editor

This past summer MBA sent a record 26 foreign-language students abroad through the Wilson Language Grant program. The scholars' travels stretched in all directions and included visits to South America, Europe, and Asia. The trips ranged from 3 – 5 weeks in length and most included home stays, tours and general cultural immersion. From all initial reports, every student improved his language ability immensely and gathered key observations of local culture that is nearly impossible to condense into a simple classroom setting.

The majority of the language programs were organized through The Experiment in International Living (EIL), a subprogram of the Vermont-based group World Learning. For the second year, MBA teamed up with EIL to match up language students with the trip of their choosing.

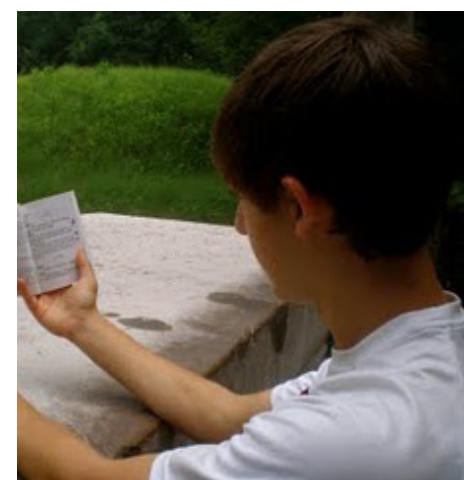
Each trip had a slightly different focus to match nearly every student's interests. For example, a French student could choose from nearly a dozen different programs including biking, cooking, photography, theater, hiking, or service. Along with the aforementioned foci, each program included complete language immersion to further our students' language ability.

Through the generosity of the Wilson family, each MBA student's trip was fully paid for by the school. While MBA's in-class language programs have always been extensive, in years past students had very little real-world use of their foreign languages. The Wilson Language Grants have granted over 50 students in the past two years this real-world experience that has been missing in years past.

For all MBA's talk of "life on a hill," it is easy to forget about the world outside of MBA. At times we take criticism for being myopic or even elitist. While international travel may have given this year's grant recipients a polished college resumé or a vastly improved Spanish vocabulary, it has also imparted something much more important: the knowledge that we are not alone.

There is no denying that most students at MBA live sheltered lives. Even simply as Americans, we are isolated from large-portions of intellectual thought and foreign culture. While MBA students have undoubtedly enjoyed their experiences and learned quite a good bit of their foreign language of choice, the most relevant gift they have brought back to the Hill will hopefully be the understanding of the world that our limited time at MBA is preparing us for.

To fully document each student's trip abroad, the language department has set up a blog at [www.wilsonlanguagegrants.blogspot.com](http://www.wilsonlanguagegrants.blogspot.com) for prospective language students, teachers, parents and the occasional stalker. The best way, however, to find out about any of these trips would be to ask any of the students who went on one last year.



**LEFT:** The Eiffel Tower at night. Daniel Mace himself got to visit the tower on his trip to France. The attraction boasts a not too shabby 5.6 million visitors annually.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Daniel Mace and his new friends pose for a picture on the beach. Daniel's abs are exceptional.

**BOTTOM:** Daniel Francis Mace enjoyed an abroad experience centered around creating and tasting foreign cuisine. Not only was the food delicious, but the cooking uniform was nothing less than satisfactory.

This past summer, I traveled to France on a five-week program focusing on Cooking and Language. The experience was nothing short of phenomenal. In the Region of Gorges du Tarn, I ran in the most picturesque setting imaginable. In the city of Lyon, the self-proclaimed gastronomic capitol of the world, I attended cooking school during the day and tasted authentic Lyonnaise cuisine in the evenings, including escargot, tripe and crème brûlée. While my language and cooking skills improved immensely, I also made lasting friendships with students all across the country.

I would like to thank MBA and the Wilson Family for providing me with this once in a lifetime opportunity.

**- Daniel Mace, Class of 2012  
(France)**





## Personal accounts find exchange ‘awesome’

>> **EXCHANGE** FROM P.12

**TOP LEFT:** John Mark Bellet poses with his host brother.

**TOP RIGHT:** Rett Hooper has a spy over his shoulder as he takes a selfie.

**MIDDLE LEFT:** Rett Hooper and Eric Walsh pose with Chinese candy and some new friends.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Rett Hooper dives into Confucius. Rett knows how to do the right thing when the paparazzi is around.

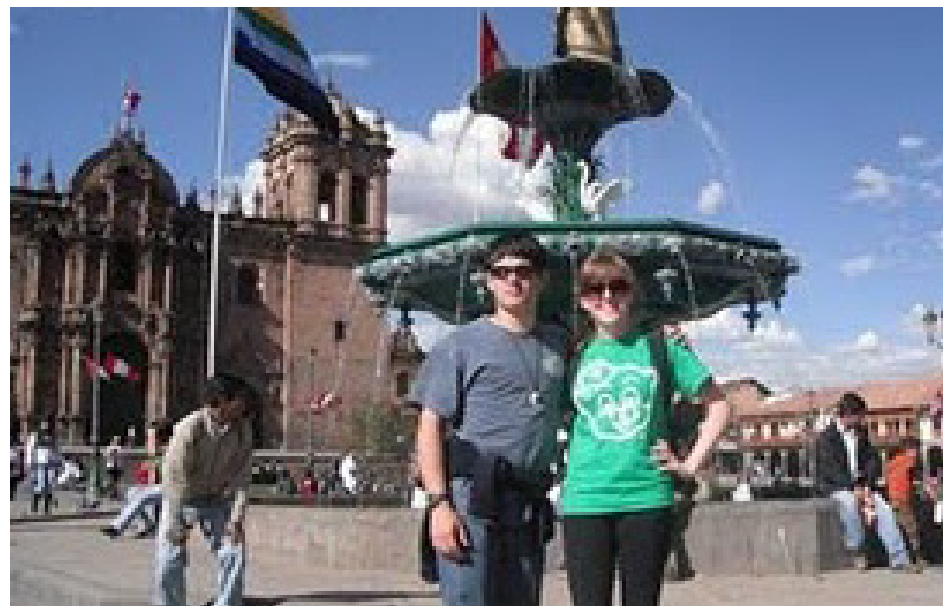
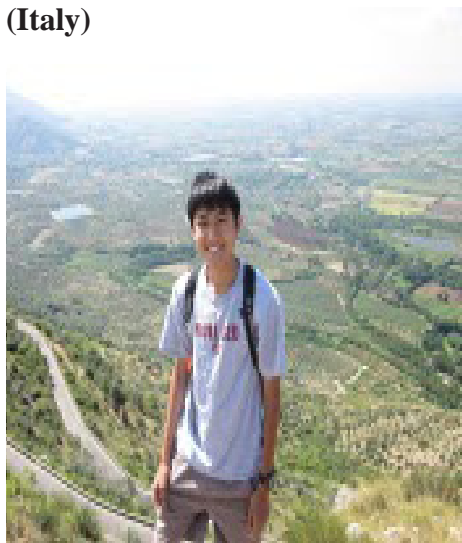
**BOTTOM:** Decorated Chinese tents fill on open market in China.

John Mark Bellet, Eric Walsh, John Mellow, Andrew Karpos, Hayden Deakins, and I all traveled through various parts of China this summer with the Experiment in International Living. The trip was awesome because China was so different from America. The food, the people, the architecture, and the culture in general were all unique and unforgettable. The best quality of the trip overall was definitely getting to travel with kids from across the US. Spending 30 days in a new place with kids from all different backgrounds made the trip more fun, interesting, and beneficial altogether. The experience was absolutely amazing.

**- Rett Hooper, Class of 2012 (China)**

When in Rome, do as the ancient Romans did: this essentially summarizes my trip. I walked inside the Colosseum and across the Forum, ate Italian food, and lastly and most importantly, I read endless passages of great Latin. My trip on the University of Dallas “Latin in Rome” program was mostly academic-based, with homework assignments and an exam at the end, but I nevertheless had the marvelous opportunity to visit the Trevi fountain, Arch of Constantine, and St. Peter’s Basilica, and to soak in the rich Latin history of the city. I would like to thank the Wilson family and MBA for making this trip possible. This was an experience I will remember forever, and I strongly encourage any Latin scholars out there to try this program.

**- Kevin Wang, Class of 2013 (Italy)**



As a Spanish student, I had many countries to choose from, such as Argentina or Spain, but I’m glad I chose Peru. From the moment I arrived in the Lima International Airport, I knew I was in for the trip of a lifetime. Whether it was walking through the streets of Lima, getting to know my host family in Trujillo, enjoying the local food, visiting Machu Picchu, or hanging out with my eleven other EIL group members, Peru had everything to offer. The opportunity to test and improve my Spanish skills with native speakers of the language was extremely rewarding. I strongly recommend anyone interested in the Wilson Language Grant next year to try it.

**- Matt Anderson, Class of 2012 (Peru)**



**TOP:** Matt Anderson stands in front of a fountain in Peru.

**SECOND FROM TOP:** Matt stands in all of his tourist glory in front of Macchu Picchu.

**ABOVE:** The architecture in most Peruvian buildings is similar to this building in Cusco.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Matt and his 11 other friends hang pose for a pic in Peru.



**Kevin Wang’s adventures in Italy:**

**TOP:** Kevin poses with his host family.

**MIDDLE LEFT:** Kevin stands on top of Italy’s Noba.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Beautiful view of Monte Cassino Cemetery.

**BOTTOM:** Kevin’s last dinner was at the restaurant ‘Trattoria’ in Italy.

**RIGHT:** Kevin’s campus pool.





# Microbes morph from river rats to freshmen

## One student recounts his experience

By **Hank Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Imagine a peaceful, calm stream gently pulling you around bends as you enjoy a calm summer breeze. This was not at all the screaming river that the new freshman class encountered on August 12, in Ocoee, TN.

The day started at six o'clock in the morning outside the Curry Gymnasium where we were given a breakfast of biscuits, donuts, juice, and milk. The breakfast was great, except for the obvious fact that it was the earliest that anyone had woken up all summer. By the time we left, it was already around 7:15, which was forty-five minutes after schedule due to someone's sleeping habits (not pointing fingers, but it was Jackson Rich).

The journey to Ocoee was about three and a half hours, and we were already seeing changes from the middle school because we were allowed to have our cellular devices and multimedia players.

However, we were not in grave need of these, considering we were surrounded by friends, and the time went by fairly fast for the majority of us.

When we arrived at Ocoee, we were given raft assignments (which were very simply placed in alphabetical order) and given lunch. The lunch was sandwiches, a variety of chips, and pink lemonade. The sandwich bread was pumpernickel, so whoever it was that laid it out had a strong sense that we needed to widen our horizons when it came to our lunch bread. The pinkness of the lemonade brought me back to the good-old-days when pink lemonade first came out, whereas now it is all they make.

Anyway, back to the day: after lunch we played an assortment of games including but not limited to volley-ball, Frisbee, and, of course, throw-the-tire-swing-at-each-other. This period was full of anticipation of the second when we would jump into the thrashing waters and enjoy great bonding time with the numerous new students. When the time came for us to go up to the top of the river, we first had to endure a nearly thirty-minute drive in school buses wearing life jackets, and, as the Jonas

Brothers would say, "Burning Up," but in a negative way.

By the time we finally made it to the river, we were more than happy to feel the river mist on our faces, and there was a peacefully subtle feeling of nerve, excitement, impatience, and relaxation. However, this did not last for long. Within minutes we were in the water receiving orders on what to do if we fell out of the raft, if it tipped over, and several other not necessarily encouraging scenarios.

Everyone felt adrenaline rushes of different degrees as we rushed around curves and through the rapids, feeling pride in not being stuck as we passed numerous rafts that were immobile. Disappointingly, few of us fell out, and the one which I saw, no one was expecting at all (this was Steve Wood; sorry, pal, I just had to throw that out) I suppose the whole holding-on-for-dear-life strategy works fairly well for us.

After an hour and a half of seeing my life flash in front of my eyes as we went through insane rapids, one after another, we arrived at the end point of the river where we loaded onto the school bus for another half-hour ride, except this time we were sopping wet. We returned to the buses with crazy hair from the intense wind coming from the open windows (I feel this would have been a great scenario for a slow-motion montage).

After changing and a very hungry hour and a half on the buses, we stopped

at a park to be greeted by what appeared to be a mountain of pizza boxes. Pizza Hut has never looked so glorious, if I do say so myself. By the time we had gotten back on the buses and arrived back at the school it was nearly eight o'clock (post meridian, of course), and we were all exhausted from a good day.

Now, let's put this into a literature style! After all, school is back in session. Rafting the Ocoee rapids gave an opportunity for reflection, just as Louis Zamperini received in *Unbroken* when he was on his raft in the middle of the ocean; except instead of floating in the middle of the ocean, we were speeding through the rapids of a river. Our rafts could symbolize our freshman class, and in order for us to get through struggles we need each other, because we cannot do it on our own. Lastly, each raft's guide is like our fine institution's faculty, for they push us to do our best and plow through the battles of high school (or on the rapids, the kayaks) by screaming at us to go faster or else they will throw us out of their raft. Now that I think about that one, I suppose the second part only counts for rafting.

In conclusion, the freshman class had an excellent day of river rafting in preparation for the next four years of high school together. Put in better words: Dude, we beat the Ocoee river rapids! High school? Bring it on!

## Sports summer camps bring Nashville's youth to the Hill

### A junior reflects on the annual tradition

By **McLean Hudson**  
Co-News Editor

When we first pulled up onto the MBA campus several years ago, my mom had to force me out of the car to go talk to the big, scary coaches (whom I later learned to call Coach Anderson and Coach Simpson) at the registration table. Timidly, I dragged my tennis racket to the table and tried to explain that even though I was registered as Thomas my real name was McLean.

This is my first memory of MBA, and it happens to be of my first day at the MBA All-Sports Camp. Many of us, from the 7<sup>th</sup>-graders to the seniors (and possibly some faculty...) have a similar memory of a summer sports camp at MBA. In fact, the first time many of us met was sippin' Kool-Aid and munchin' on apples during the break periods. I still remember first meeting Tony Birdsong, Todd Baker, and Ryan Potter (along with many others) in my years at camp at MBA.

The summer sports camps here on the Hill have become a tradition, and the iconic All-Sports Camp T-shirt is recognized across Nashville. Whether you grew up attending the camps or have started working at them as a student at MBA, the camps seem to have been a part of just about everyone's childhood at one time or another.

"Oh, All-Sports Camp? Yeah, I dominated back then, too," says junior Ryan Potter. Tennis stud and rising sophomore Wilson Vaughan was quoted "I knew I was



**STUDS OF THE FUTURE:** Little tykes play battleball at an MBA Sports Camp. They may look small now, but who knows what they might become in a few years?

born to play tennis for MBA after my first camp here." Said junior Davidson White, "Yeah, I just came for the Putt-Putt and the Kool-Aid."

Their broad reach and popularity serve MBA well, as many youngsters and future students are introduced to the Big Red by riflery, basketball, wrestling, or even dodgeball camp. This summer a new camp has been introduced: for the first time kids may participate in MBA's rowing camp, sponsored by the blossoming flower that is MBA Crew.

As another successful year of sports camps goes in the books, who knows what future Big Red studs could have just had their first MBA summer experience.

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# Dog bites man, students procrastinate on summer reading

A student evaluates the all-school read

By McKay Proctor  
Opinions Editor

Predictably, the vast majority of the Gentlemen, Scholars, and Athletes went into the final week of summer break at stages of the summer reading process somewhere between “We have summer reading?” and “I read some of that ‘Stranded-In-the-Pacific-on-a-Raft’ book” (Do I mean *Life of Pi*? If you did your summer reading, you know the answer). As naturally as summer fades to fall, the student body as a whole put off summer reading.

Those who did do the reading at a pace that allowed us to actually enjoy the reading confronted an interesting choice for the all-school read. In case you are using this paper to cram on your way to the first English class of the year – I’ve heard worse strategies – Laura Hillenbrand’s *Unbroken* is the story of Louis Zamperini. The story focuses on Zamperini’s staggering determination in overcoming a long string of adversities including but not limited to: racism, socioeconomic disadvantage, drifting in the Pacific in a raft, sharks, more sharks, a Japanese POW camp, and teetering on the edge of drunken insanity after the onset of PTSD. While the story was uplifting

to be sure, Zamperini spent approximately 300 pages of the total 400 either stranded on a raft, being beaten, or fighting off the onset of insanity – it was the kind of book that could put a damper on your afternoon.

From a student perspective, *Unbroken* was a departure from the past choices for the all-school read. The one theme that unites the last three choices is perspective. *This I Believe* was a collection of diverse perspectives on life, emphasizing open-mindedness. *Mountains Beyond Mountains* gave perspective on the issues of global healthcare, informing us that healthcare is a rare privilege, not a right for the majority of the developing world.

From a teaching perspective, *Unbroken* provides an interesting launching pad for the English curriculum. It’s a book that the majority of the student body – aside from the sadists and masochists out there (no judgment here) – feels the same way about. It was a story of the extraordinary extent of human persistence and cruelty. As Dr. Kinch so eloquently put it in passing, “Did anyone else just want to go hug their mom after that book?”

Now all your English teacher has to do is duplicate the same reaction of awe with every book they teach this year, and they’ll have done their job. Best of luck with that, and best of luck in that summer reading you’re still looking to finish during break.



**READING OVERLOAD:** MBA students are used to being flooded with summer reading assignments, but not actually reading anything until a week before school starts. Laura Hillenbrand’s *Unbroken*, the 2011 All-School read, is featured in the bottom left.

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# Swimming phenom Maclin Davis ('12) shines on national stage

By John Tully and Tate Ramsden  
Staff Sports Writers

Senior Maclin Davis ('12) recently competed in the 2011 USA Swimming National Championships, where he finished 11th in the 100-meter butterfly.

*The Bell Ringer* interviewed him about his aspirations, both for himself and for the MBA swim team in the upcoming year.

**BR: Can you describe your recent success at Nationals?**

**MD:** My success this year at Nationals culminated from several years of my keeping my focus during and away from the pool and on being able to compete and win on a national level while still in high school. I have the encouragement and help of my fellow swimmers on NAC, my coaches, and my family to thank also for my success. They kept my competitive drive going and provided me with the discipline to sacrifice other aspects of my life (sleep, social activities) in order to finally reach this level of swimming. It definitely has been the highlight of my swimming career so far, and it's very exciting to finally be up with the big dogs.

**BR: What does this success at the US Nationals entail for you and your ability to enter into even bigger meets?**

**MD:** I placed 11th at Nationals, but my time would've placed me 9th overall. If I make the top six next year, I'll be on the National Team, which means I'll be sponsored by USA swimming to travel to meets as well



ANDREW DUPUIS/BELL RINGER

**BIG MAC:** Maclin Davis ('12) rips through the water for the Big Red. Fresh off an 11th place finish at the USA Swimming National Championship, Maclin is starting to make waves nationally.

as to train. Right now, I'm on the National Youth Team (18 and under) and am going to the World Youth Championships in Lima, Peru because I was 18 and under champion in the 100 meter butterfly. This year's Nationals puts me in a good position going into the Olympic Trials, the most competitive meet America holds.

**BR: Do you plan to swim in college? If so, what colleges are looking at you?**

**MD:** I do plan to swim in college. I have been in contact with coaches from USC (Southern Cal), Cal-Berkeley, Auburn, Arizona, Iowa, Louisville, Virginia, Texas, and Stanford to name a few. This summer

has been a very hectic time, as July 1st was the earliest any coach could speak to me. On that day I received 13 calls!

**BR: Can you please describe the recruiting process for swimming (since swimming is based on numbers, while football, for example, is based on potential)?**

**MD:** College swim coaches basically watch from afar as swimmers develop through high-school. USA swimming's database is open to anyone, so coaches browse through a swimmer's times and can also review the top times in the country for

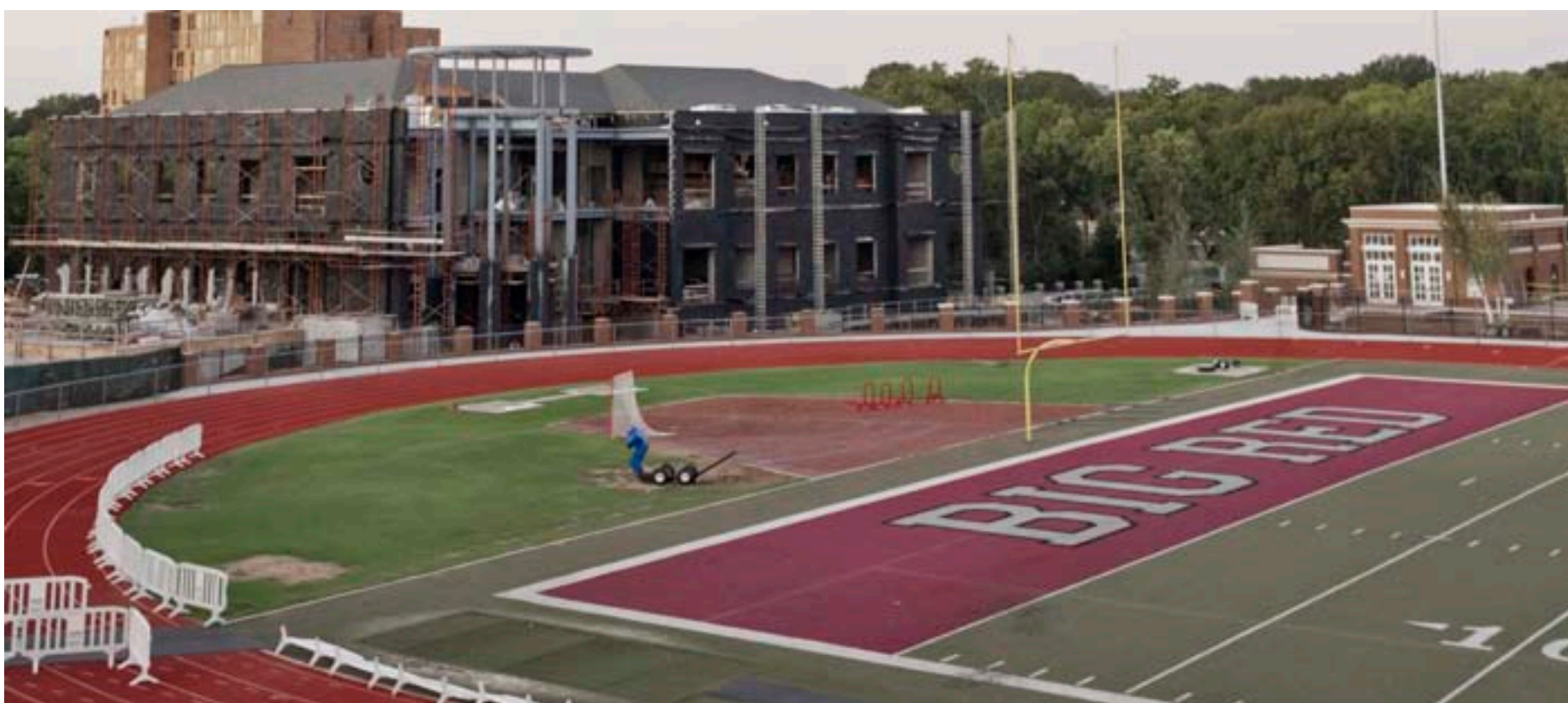
a certain race. When they see these times, they can get a good idea of whom they want for their team. College coaches often do some scouting at Junior Nationals, held twice a year. On July 1st, when a swimmer is a rising senior, he can be contacted by any college swim coach and has about a month to decide to what colleges he would like to make recruiting trips (because the trips are only in the fall).

**BR: With MBA coming in second last year in the state, what does MBA need to do to recapture a state title?**

**MD:** Each swimmer needs to be very focused going into the season. No swim practices should be missed except for illness or emergency, and in the back of each swimmer's mind should be the goal of a state title. I know I'll be thinking about it a lot. The relays, team unity and enthusiasm are very important, and we REALLY appreciate when non-swimmers come to cheer at state. I'll be looking forward to some of that come February!

**BR: Finally, what are some personal goals as well as a team goal for this upcoming swim season?**

**MD:** Last year at state I was .08 off the National High School record. I would love to obliterate that time at State this year. As a team, I would like the bottom line for us to be to have fun and not take ourselves too seriously. It is very important for the survival of a team for each member to build his teammates up, and I hope I'm not the only one who wants our team to win!



ANDREW DUPUIS/BELL RINGER

**JUXTAPOSITION:** The unfinished Lowry Building looms in the background of Tommy Owen stadium. Once it is completed, the entire Wilson Road side of the campus will be finished.



# Fall Varsity Sports Previews

## Cross Country | Big Red eyes historic three-peat

By Andrew Karpos  
Staff Sports Writer

The 2011 varsity cross country team aims to win its 3<sup>rd</sup> straight state championship this year. Last year's team not only won state with a perfect 15 score, a first in TN state meet history, but also finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the NXN SE Regional, barely eliminating them from competing in Nike Cross Nationals. After losing 5 of last year's top 7 team members, the team's chances of another victory will surely rest on the shoulders of a new group of 7 runners.

Coach Roderick Russ is optimistic about the team's chances during the upcoming year. This year's team "absolutely has the goal of repeating as state champion."

Before the state meet, the team will face some major tests at races in Louisville, KY and Hoover, AL. The team will be anchored by returning state runner-up Daniel Peters and returning all-state runner Alex Smith. Eric Anderson, Myles Anderson, and David Arteaga will also look to step up into varsity roles and contribute, while the last two spots in the



MR. TILLMAN

**PERFECT 15:** Runners and coaches pose on the podium after MBA's historic State Championship victory. The Big Red is losing several key runners, but has not shied away from the ambitious goal of a third consecutive title.

top 7 are up for grabs.

Coach Russ believes that there are many reasons for the team's success over the past few years. Besides the sheer talent and high-caliber runners the school has possessed, The MBA team has built a "culture of distance running that values hard work and camaraderie." The boys who do well in cross country tend to also be good students and leaders. Finally, over the last two years the team has been able to avoid major injuries. When it comes to the future of the program, Coach Russ hopes "to compete for state titles each year but take it one year at a time."

One of the team's main leaders this year will be senior Daniel Peters. Last year Peters finished second in state to his brother Michael. He has twice received all-state recognition, and last year he received all-region recognition after the NXN SE Regional competition. Peters' individual goals this year include winning the state title and qualifying for the Nike Cross Nationals. Daniel enjoys cross country because of "the competitive aspect of running" and also because it is "a great way to stay fit." He appreciates the fact that in cross country runners can be definitively ranked based on their times.

This year Daniel will have to run and train without his brother Michael, who graduated last year. With Michael gone, Daniel will have to adjust to his absence and "step up as a team leader." Daniel will also have to train without graduate Ryan Hill, his workout partner from last year. However, he is optimistic that Mr. Kamm will be able to do some of the workouts with him.

There are many reasons to believe that the cross country team has a great opportunity to win another state title. Hopefully the runners will be hearing the "three-peat" chant in a few months.



**IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY:** For the past two years, Daniel Peters (pictured) has been playing second fiddle to brother Michael. Now, as a senior, he must step up as the Big Red's number one runner.

## Rowing | Team hopes new dock portends success



MR. TILLMAN

**ROW RED ROW:** A boat represents MBA at the Chattanooga Head Race. This year, with Crew more firmly entrenched at the school, the team aspires to even greater heights.

By Anthony Swenson  
Staff Writer

After long, grueling practices throughout the summer, the MBA Crew Team is prepared for the regular season. The team has thirty-two rowers, which is the largest roster to date.

In the words of coach Brandy Sherwood, "Crew is the ultimate sport that requires endurance, mental toughness, strength, and grace." The Crew Team, recently given varsity status at MBA, has twelve experienced rowers returning, and they hope to be a threat on the water. "This will be the first time we really have a set of competent rowers," she added. "Up to this

>> CONTINUED ON P.19



# The *Bell Ringer* sports staff looks at the upcoming season

## Golf | Talented seniors ready to lead a team effort

by George Swenson  
Sports Editor

The *Bell Ringer* sat down with 2<sup>nd</sup>-year golf coach John Harvey to discuss his the upcoming golf season.

**BR:** Can you briefly summarize last year's season and the impact of the loss of both Hayden Morgan and Cody Fisher?

**Coach John Harvey:** Last year was a very successful season with tournament wins at Nation's Golf in Florida and the Stan McNabb in Tullahoma. We had solid victories over Ensworth, Baylor, and BGA, and a two-stroke loss to eventual state champion McCallie. The team came up a few strokes short at Regionals and did not qualify for state. This put a bit of a damper on an otherwise great season. The team will miss Hayden and Cody this season for different reasons. Hayden will be missed for his talent on the course, and Cody will be missed for being a great teammate, leader, role model, and gentleman of the game.

**BR:** What have you learned from your first year as the golf coach to this, your second year?

**JH:** I have learned a lot about patience and giving up control. I have learned the difference in golf between losing and just getting beat by a team that has a great day. You can do nothing to stop the other teams, and that takes a lot out of my control. I have learned that conditioning will play a bigger role for this team, and its importance on the back nine. It has



**CAPTAINS AT WORK:** Austin Doeblor (left) finishes his swing, while Roe Moore (right) surveys a green. Both seniors will play a crucial role on the golf team, on and off the course.

been confirmed that this is a brutal game, that it can be unfair, unlucky, and come at you in emotional waves, but the more level a player can stay, the more successful he will be.

**BR:** Having four seniors on the team this year, how will a more experienced team seem to benefit you?

**JH:** The biggest benefit comes during practice. Having veteran players who know the right way to work is huge for the younger players. The seniors love the game and their passion for golf is contagious, and if the younger players do not buy into it, they will not last long. Captains Austin Doeblor and Roe Moore have set high expectations, but also realize it is a marathon, not a sprint, to the state tournament.



**BR:** What do leadership both on and off the course do Austin and Roe exhibit?

**JH:** Austin and Roe really epitomize MBA golf in my eyes. They love the game, they respect the game, and they are very competitive. I think both of them have had good individual success on the course over the years, but they want MBA golf to succeed more than anything this fall. They both work very hard at their games and expect that from others. I could not be happier with the leadership of my two captains heading into the season.

**BR:** Besides Roe and Austin, who looks to have the ability to carry this team to a successful season?

**JH:** Bevan Petrikin has really made the

biggest jump in the off-season. He is playing as well as anybody right now and should contribute all year long. Cal Fisher is playing solid golf as usual, and Chase Mathews and Will Peffen are right there as well. Brandon Sauermann returns for his third year, while freshmen John Hazen and Chris Byrne look to gain experience during their first year.

**BR:** In recent years, MBA teams have had successful regular seasons but have seemed to sizzle out during the post season. What does the golf team need to do to avoid such circumstances?

**JH:** Because golf is such an individual game, building the teamwork will seem to solve this problem. It is important to stress that we are only as good as our 5<sup>th</sup> man on any given day, and that 5<sup>th</sup> man can be anyone. So, as long as everyone buys into the fact that by each player's pushing the other, our team can be successful. They all need to understand that the sum of our parts is greater than the individual. If the team can focus on course management, teamwork, and consistency, a state championship looks imminent.

On August 11th and 12th, the Big Red defeated Ensworth 8 to 4 in the innagural Ryder Cup Match at the Golf Club of Tennessee. The first day featured four best-ball team matches, after which the teams were locked at two points apiece. In the individual matches, however, the Big Red pulled ahead, winning six of eight contests. Hopefull the team can carry the positive momentum from this victory in to the rest of the season.

### >> FROM P.18

point we have been a group still learning how to row and grasping the basics."

Currently, MBA is the only school in Nashville that has a crew team, but Coach Sherwood believes that Harpeth Hall may form a team as early as this fall.

MBA will take on Trinity in a dual match, as well as Baylor and McCallie this season. The team will race in four other meets across Tennessee and South Carolina.

At the beginning of August, a group of MBA rowers helped build a new dock, which was part of fellow rower Robert Papel's Eagle Scout project. "The dock is amazing," Coach Sherwood said. "With the rowing community growing and especially with MBA starting a team, we were in desperate need of a new dock because the old one was too small

and unstable. We were only able to launch 2 boats at a time, and our largest boats didn't fully fit on the old dock. There were oftentimes traffic jams because of MBA, NRC and Vanderbilt's need to launch and return in the same time block. The new dock is longer, wider, and very stable. We have already benefited from it greatly, as we have begun teaching our novices how to row."

Both the physical preparation and the dock-building efforts of the team point to the promise of a successful season.

**A TEAM EFFORT:** Volunteers lift the completed dock and carry it toward the water. The effort was part of the Eagle Scout effort of Robert Papel ('13)



ROBERT PAPEL/BELL RINGER



# Football | New coach, new look for 113<sup>th</sup> season



ANDREW DUPUIS/BELL RINGER

**TEAM TALK:** New head coach Marty Euverard speaks to players after a long summer practice. Coach Eu has stressed team unity as a major emphasis for the year's season.

## Coach Eu ready to bring changes

### >> COACH FROM PI

up front and three linebackers behind them.

Inevitably, effecting such changes creates obstacles. One challenge is breaking the "verbiage barrier". Although many of the plays may be similar, new labels and names for them can create a complication. Time has also been a hindrance. Coach Eu says, "Since being named head coach, we have had a sense of urgency in implementing our philosophy, schemes and techniques."

As far as a philosophy is concerned, the MBA coaching staff is preaching the word "family." This motto will play not only a role in bettering the

um on the field but also in the team's continuing maturation into true gentlemen. MBA players are anxious to buy into Coach Euverard's message. "Coach Euverard has really brought this team closer together. His upbeat tempo and positive attitude have allowed the team to make huge strides in our short time together," says junior Dylan Hall. Captain Mattison Hamilton refers to Coach Eu. as "a leader, a great coach and a very positive role model."

MBA's football program has made significant changes from last year, but with Coach Euverard at the helm, there is little doubt that the football team will continue in the success that is Big Red tradition.

### Get to know Coach Eu

**Hometown:** Rogersville, TN

**Favorite College Teams:**

MTSU, Notre

Dame, Nebraska, Alabama

**Favorite Bands:** Third Day,

Old Crow Medicine Show

**Favorite Book:** "Waking the

Dead" by John Eldridge

**Favorite Quote:** "Carve your

name on hearts, not marble."

**Dream Car:** Silverado 3500

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**Hobby:** Playing the piano

**Idol:** Jesus Christ

## Michigan-bound Blake (2012) sets bar high

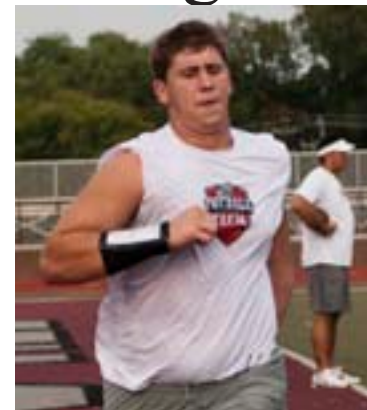
By George Swenson  
Sports Editor

After a successful, eye-catching performance in his junior year, MBA senior lineman Blake Bars looks to continue his success. A recent Michigan commitment, Bars has already received numerous accolades. Bars is the third-ranked prospect in Tennessee and a four star recruit on Rivals, which marks him as the first MBA student to receive such a ranking. With two other four-star linemen committed, Michigan looks to return to its former football dominance.

After receiving an invitation to the U.S All American Combine in San Antonio, Blake realized he had the potential to play football in college. He received positive feedback from numerous collegiate coaches and soon began compiling a highlights video.

The offers soon began to pour in. With offers from Penn State, Florida, South Carolina, and many others, Blake chose to turn down both his brother's college, Penn State, and hometown school Vanderbilt to pursue his career at Michigan. "Michigan just felt right," he said. "It had the whole package: great football, great academics, and great student life. Coach Hoke was turning the program around, and I wanted to be part of this change."

In addition to his personal choice, Bars' grandfather and



ANDREW DUPUIS/BR

**TRAINING HARD:** Blake Bars runs during a summer practice

uncle played football at Michigan. Although Penn State was definitely a front runner after a few trips, Blake "felt that Coach Paterno had already established such a successful program, whereas at Michigan I can help establish something great." The two brothers, however, will meet in both the 2013 and 2014 seasons when the two teams collide. "It will definitely be fun," he said "The game will be a rematch of high school, except this time in front of 100,000 fans." Bars, however, is not "looking too much in the future."

The 6'6, 280 pound lineman aims to focus his attention on the upcoming football season at MBA. His personal goal is to help the team win the state title. "There will be a time for me to focus on college football, but now I am focused on MBA football." To do so, MBA will surely rely on him in blocking for the running and passing game.

## Big Red will be tested in first five games of season

By George Swenson  
Sports Editor

**Kingsbury (Memphis, TN)** (last year: 7-6) (National Rank by MaxPreps.com: #3324)-After a tough 0-4 start last year, the Falcons look to start off on the right foot this year. Managing to win seven out of its last nine games, this tenacious team has an experienced offensive line that looks to pave the way for explosive freshman running back Randolph Zleh. With a new starting quarterback, the offense, though very athletic, may be shaky in its first game.

**Trinity High School (Louisville, KY.)** (15-1) (NR: #12) - The nationally recognized Shamrocks certainly did not disappoint last year. Compiling a 15-1 record while outscoring their opponents by over 500 points, Trinity continued its

dominance. Offensively, junior quarterback Travis Wright (18 TD passes) looks to build off his successful sophomore campaign. Defensively, the line is anchored by Division-I prospect Jason Hatcher and linebacker Adam Reynolds. Referred to by many as too good for Kentucky, the #1 team in Kentucky will travel to Tennessee to play Brentwood Academy and MBA in two of the most anticipated games in recent history.

**Brentwood Academy** (10-3) (NR: #156) - After a hard-fought loss last year, MBA looks to redeem itself against local Eagles. While rushing for only 77 yards on 45 attempts last year, MBA must get past BA's feisty defense, captained by Viginia Tech commitment Woody Barron. The 6'3" defensive end leads the run-stopping defense, while Stanford

commit Graham Shuler leads the blocking for running back Radir Annoor. MBA and Brentwood Academy clash after each has played nationally ranked Trinity.

**Baylor** (10-2) (NR: #54)- The Red Raiders look to improve upon last season's success. With only two losses, Baylor lost to Ensworth in both the regular season and the state championship game. The offensive line is led by a trio of seniors in Chase Beard, Billy Sivley, and Vanderbilt commitment Barrett Gouger, while versatile Deosha McCalley plays cornerback in addition to tight end. Baylor's main strength, however, lies in its returning starters. Experienced starters translate into wins, and with 10 wins last year the Red Raiders look only to be more dominant. MBA seeks avenge its 14-10

away-game loss from last year. Although MBA had almost four hundred yards of total offense, the offensive effort came up just short.

**Battle Ground Academy** (7-6) (NR: #128)- If anyone knows BGA, it would MBA's Coach Euverard. After accepting the offensive coordinator position in 2007 and the head coaching position in 2010, Coach Euverard can attest to the skill of BGA's quarterback CJ Beathard. Throwing for 2300 yards and 18 TD's, Beathard, a Mississippi commit, will be at the center of this team. Defensively, senior linebacker Blake Thomson looks to build off his 100-tackle junior year and provide needed stability on defense. The Wildcats must overcome a much tougher schedule than last year if they plan on winning their first state championship since 2003.

### Schedule

August 19	KINGSBURY H.S.
August 26	@ TRINITY H.S. (KY)*
September 2	BRENTWOOD ACADEMY
September 9	BAYLOR SCHOOL
September 16	BATTLE GROUND ACADEMY
September 23	PEARL COHN H.S.**
September 30	@ FATHER RYAN H.S.
October 6	ENSWORTH H.S.
October 21	@ MCCALLIE SCHOOL*
October 28	@ POPE JOHN PAUL II H.S.

\* - Spirit Buses, 6:30 PM kickoff.

All other kickoffs are 7:00 PM

\*\* - Homecoming



# MBA theatricals grip the edge of your seat

By Alex Floyd

Staff Entertainment Writer

This year the MBA theater department will offer six great opportunities for the community of students, parents, friends, and art lovers to enjoy the play-acting of our thespians.

Everyone is urged to come and watch a show this year. There is something for everyone.

August 31 – September 3: *The Pajama Game*

Sid Sorokin arrives at the Sleep-Tite Pajama factory and gets caught up in a union dispute between the factory employees and the big boss Myron Hasler over a seven-and-a-half-cent raise. Sorokin suddenly has more at stake in the battle of capitol vs. labor when he meets and falls in love with Babe Williams, a strong union supporter. Janette Klocko directs this Broadway classic at Harpeth Hall. Free for MBA students and faculty.

October 4: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

Dr. Seay directs the annual one-act competition play. This year's entry is based on Charles Schultz's famous comic strip Peanuts. The wonderfully innocent musical follows everyone's favorite Peanust characters as they explore childhood, sometimes with adult cynicism. See this one-night only performance before it moves to the state competition.

November 18 – 21: *The Mouse that Roared*

The world's smallest country, the fictional Gran Fenwick, declares war on the United States, intending to lose so the U.S will be obliged to support Gran Fenwick's struggling economy, but plans change when Gran Fenwick gets its tiny hands on history's most deadly weapon. Dr. Fuller directs this outrageous, cold-war satire.

January 26 – 28: *Johnny Tremain*

The seventh annual junior school performance follows a young Johnny Tremain in 1773 Boston as he gets mixed up in politics and plays a major role on the road to revolution and independence from the English. With the help of some founding fathers, Johnny Tremain learns what it means to be a man. Dr. Seay will again direct the junior school players.



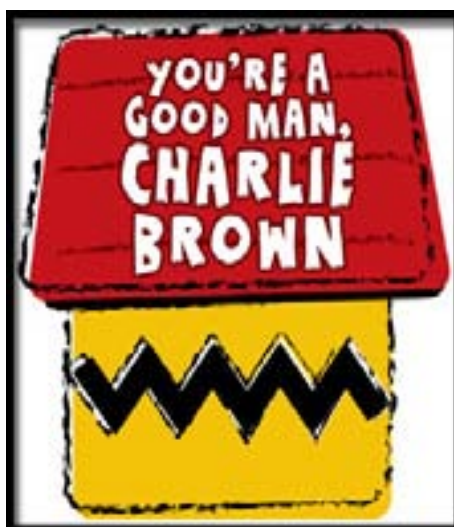
**HOLD YOUR HORSES:** Comedic duo Rob Edwards and Alex Floyd are two actors to keep your eye on this theater season.

February 23-26: *Twelfth Night*

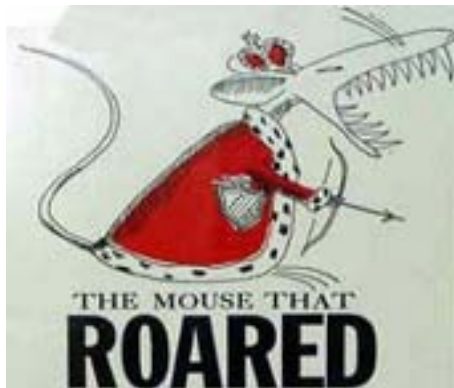
Mr. Morrison directs Shakespeare's famous comedy of deception and shipwreck. When two twins are shipwrecked on two different islands, each believes that the other is dead. The MBA performance is sure to be filled with wit and laughs in one of Shakespeare's more brilliant comedies.

April 26-28: Student Directed One-Acts

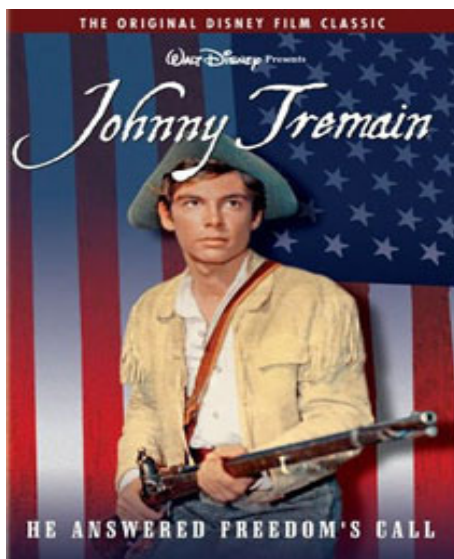
The seniors of Dr. Fuller's theater class direct a series of one-acts. With a variety of shows from absurdist comedies to dramatic realism, the one-acts are always fresh and fun.



**WHAT CAN BROWN DO FOR YOU?:** 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown' will be a great rendition of the Peanuts classic.



**IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE:** This Dr. Fuller play will cover intense subject matter in a certainly great show!



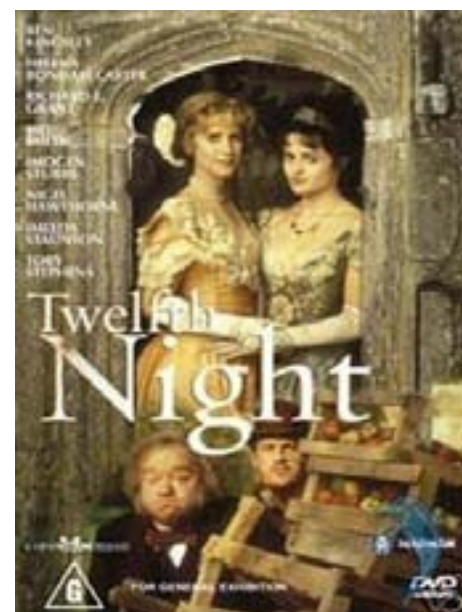
**CROBES IN THE SPOTLIGHT:** The Junior School Production will be "Johnny Tremain," a story about a boy in 1773.



**PAJAMA PARTY:** The school production of the 'Pajama Game' will be presented at Harpeth Hall (a school not for dudes, but



**ROLE REVERSAL:** One Acts are theater students chance to direct a play of their own.



**TWELVE CRAZY NIGHTS:** Mr. Morrison's production of 'Twelfth Night' will certainly be a wonderful comedy!



**FRESH AS IT IS FUNNY:** One Acts offer a refreshing perspective on MBA's theater program.

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# Boston Spaceships throw down an album for the ages

By Maclin Davis  
Staff Music Critic

Before I begin to try to convince you to go out as soon as you can and buy this album, I wanted to let you know that this is Robert Pollard's 5th album so far this year. For those of you who don't know, Robert Pollard was the mastermind of 90's indie rock mavericks Guided By Voices, the father of 20 solo albums since 1996, and about 30 one-offs and side projects. The man's ability to churn out hook after hook and song after song, and not find any lack of inspiration, is simply staggering. His vast discography is intimidating and definitely difficult to assimilate, so to the casual fan, I'm not asking you to do that. All I'm asking is to give this album a chance. This album is the real deal.

Boston Spaceships was formed in 2008 from one of Pollard's earlier side projects, the Takeovers, featuring former Guided By Voices guitarist Chris Slusarenko. Add on Decemberist drummer John Moen, and the Boston Spaceships were born. They built their reputation on incredibly catchy, small scale 70s-style arena rock with 2008's "Brown Submarine", and 2009's "Planets are Blasted" and "Zero to 99." They really found their footing on 2010's "Our Cubehouse Still Rocks," the set of songs containing an electricity never before felt on their albums. All things were pointing to 2011.

Enter *Let it Beard*, 26 songs, 75 minutes-- a monolithic slab of rock. Small scale is scrapped for the real thing, and what Pollard and friends create on "Let it Beard" is viable with the best of the Who, Pink Floyd, and Queen. The ferocity

## BOSTON SPACESHIPS



## LET IT BEARD

**LET IT BEARD:** Believe it, or not, this seemingly strange photo is the official cover for 'Let it Beard.'

of several of the songs is white-hot: "Earmarked for Collision," "You Just Can't Tell," "The Vicelords," and "Red Bodies" are all packed with energy and world class melodies to match. Juxtapose these with Pollard's patented pop melodies on "Chevy Marigold" (which has an interesting splash of R&B), "Make a Record for Lo-Life," "Tabby and Lucy," and "Christmas Girl's" impeccable horns, and you would have a taut and truly excellent album.

But *Let it Beard* is a double album. On the double album, the band expands, jokes around, experiments. In short, you can either go on a mind-bending journey or be left scratching your head until it bleeds. Here, however, the Spaceships will take you away. Far away. Let More Light Into the House drifts along majestically for five minutes plus, like a ship sailing off the end of the world. (I'll

Make It) Strong For You is haunting and a little eerie, while A Dozen Blue Overcoats is an Appalachian folk song from another dimension. The Ballad of Bad Whiskey beats Tom Petty's Free Fallin' at its own game, and A Hair in Every Square Inch of the House is comparable to a schizophrenic basilisk. Yeah, I know, Speedbumps is a humorous break, a song about driving with cell phones, and the consequences. It bounces like a song on Barney.

I can't not mention No Steamboats, which is definitely in the top 5 most beautiful songs Pollard has penned in his almost 30-year career. The last thing I should mention are the epic rock suites that are speckled throughout, culminating with the title track and album closer, Inspiration Points. The album couldn't end on a higher note.

And so, here I am again, asking you to go out and give this album a chance. You may love it, you may hate it. But, one thing is for sure: in this year of 2011, Let it Beard might be the last great 70's-style rock album for a very long time.



4.5 out of 5 Bell Ringer Bells



**4.5 OUT OF 5:** Boston Spaceship's work on 'Let it Beard' has earned the official Bell Ringer rating of 4.5 out of 5 bells meaning you should buy it now!

# Teachers appreciate a good listen every now and then

By Jamie Joyce

Entertainment Editor

Here at The Bell Ringer, we make a concerted effort to try to cover a range of different topics and opinions. That being said, it had come to our attention that while students are often very vocal about their music taste, teachers seem a bit more reserved in the area. Are they embarrassed? Are they afraid that they're not "hip" enough? Perhaps they simply don't feel a reason to share their respective tastes because they have such a heightened sense of musical superiority in that they've "heard it all before." We needed to get to the bottom of this. Therefore, we've installed a new feature: "the teacher playlist," asking teachers to give us ten songs they've been listening to lately.

This issue's teacher in question is Mr. Hamrick. Voted by the Bell Breaker to be the "most bro teacher," Mr. Hamrick is often known for his laid back attitude and for being an all-around good guy. More observant students will also notice that there is often music being played out of his laptop as he works on his Powerpoint for the AP Gov/Comparative Gov lesson of the day. What music powers this man to be a favorite amongst seniors and microbes, alike? Let's find out.

TEN SONGS:  
QUIETER SIDE



**THE DECEMBERISTS:** There is close to no song on here that isn't worth buying.

Low, Especially Me "C'mon" No one does quiet intensity like this the Duluth, MN band. The Low Anthem, Hey, All You Hippies, "Smart Flesh" Timeless Americana from one of the best roots music acts going. Gillian Welch, Down That Dixie Line, "The Harrow And The Harvest" Speaking of timeless Americana, there's no one who does it better than Nashville's Welch and her partner, guitarist David Rawlings. Bon Iver, Michicant, "Bon Iver" Faced with the impossible task of following up For Emma, Forever Ago, Justin Vernon (mostly) delivers. The Decemberists, Rise To



**TV ON THE RADIO:** 'Nine Types of Light' is the band's hit song.

Me, "The King Is Dead" On The King is Dead, The Decemberists trade in their usual twee preciousness for a grittier sound. With Peter Dinklage guest starring, the band channels REM at their mid-80s height and there's not a bad song in the bunch.

## LOUDER SIDE

Beastie Boys, Nonstop Disco Powerpack, "Hot Sauce Committee Part 2" It's a long way from Paul's Boutique, but the Beasties are as irresistible as ever. Shabazz Palaces, Youlogy, "Black Up" From the most interesting hip hop record since Madvillainy.

Tune-Yards, My Country, "Whokill"

She's weird, childlike, and generally a mess, but somehow it just works. Yuck, Get Away, "Yuck" A perfect song for a summer roadtrip. TV On The Radio, Second Song, "Nine Types Of Light" TVOTR plays the Ryman September 14. Highly recommended.



**BEASTS MODE IS BETTER THAN DEGREE MODE:** Beastie Boys prove to be on Mr. Hamrick's top played on the louder side.



# Lollapalooza 2011 proves great fun for all genres

By Jamie Joyce

Entertainment Editor

It was a hot, humid day when my colleague Noah “Jaws” Fardon and I strolled up to the gates of Grant Park in Chicago for our second annual Lollapalooza. A bit pressed for time, we gathered many concerned looks as we progressed from a normal walking pace into a slightly more awkward “walk/run” hybrid in order to get to the Vaccine’s kickoff show on the other side of the park.

Unfortunately, once we managed to get through the long line leading up to the spot where you exchange your ticket for a Lolla wristband, we found that there was something wrong with Noah’s ticket. Rather than try to scan the ticket again to see if maybe there was some mistake they immediately sent him to an even longer line labeled for “customer service.” We were not happy. At last year’s Lollapalooza, through careful planning and precise timing, we were able to get to the very front of just about every show we saw, including but not limited to Arcade Fire, Phoenix, Spoon, the Walkmen, and the Strokes (who were by far the best show of the weekend). Now we would be late to our very first show. After getting through, we ran all the way to the stage and pushed up as far as we could and made it just in time for the Vaccine’s opener.

Two Door Cinema Club; Sony Stage (4 out of 5 Bells):

Although we were dying of thirst and possibly of heat stroke, we decided to stick it out for another hour and wait in our same spots for Two Door Cinema Club. After their debut *Tourist History* came out in 2010, we have been huge fans of their sleek dance rock, accompanied by spindly guitar riffs and electro blips. They completely lived up to expectation, opening with “Cigarettes In the Theatre,” their anthemic and catchy ode to love at first sight. The energy on stage almost matched that in the crowd as they drove through a piledriver of a setlist, which included immaculate performances of crowd pleasers like *This Is The Life* and *Something Good Can Work*. During a moment of disco-euphoria, lead singer Alex Trimble urged “as many to people to get on someone else’s shoulders as possible,” before launching into a glossy rendition of “Eat That Up It’s Good For You.” The audience willingly and immediately obliged. After closing with the sing-along “I Can Talk,” they walked off to a chorus of “one more song!” but to have



**LOLLA 2011:** Thousands gathered in Chicago to see the hoards of acts from all around the globe. 130 artists performed over the course of the three day event.

obliged the crowd would have been to ruin the moment, as they walked off with the satisfaction that they had played an awesome set and left the people wanting more.

Crystal Castles; Sony Stage (5 out of 5 Bells)

Noah and I were originally not going to go to Crystal Castles. We don’t really listen to them and neither of us actually have any of their albums. That is why we decided that after Two Door Cinema Club we were going to quench our thirst and take a much needed bathroom break. We were still trying to decide where to go. We could go to Ok Go. We also could have tried to go and get good spots for Girtalk. But once our eyes set upon the sight of an nearly empty crowd area in front of the Sony Stage as roadies began to set up for Crystal Castle’s show, we couldn’t help ourselves. Front row seats? To a band whose female singer had recently been in a controversy involving a fist fight with a security guard who wasn’t letting her crowd surf enough and ended in being dragged offstage? How could we not see them?

As we took our seats amongst the perhaps ten other people there, we wondered aloud why there weren’t as many people. Suddenly Noah turned and said, “hey, wait. Isn’t that the guy from Crystal Castles?” We turned around, and to our surprise it was indeed Ethan Kath, the band’s synth player, checking out the view of the stage from the ground as the crew did their setup.

The hooded (and presumably extremely hot in the ninety-eight-degree weather) Kath obviously heard my friend’s comment, though, as he quickly turned and walked past us and back to the other side of the stage.

When the band finally came out, it was a bit eerie. Kath, along with lead singer Alice Glass and their touring drummer, came out on stage but so slightly and awkwardly that there was barely any applause despite the massive amount of people that had finally turned up to see them. Kath and the drummer took their positions at their instruments as Glass gazed out at her audience. Was she upset? Was she disappointed? Before the likes of Foster and Two Door there had been nonstop cheering up until the band finally came out, only to take intermediate breaks during songs. Maybe you don’t cheer at Crystal Castles shows? It was almost like a silent staring contest between Glass and the audience as she stood at the front of the stage looking like a demonic, possessed rag doll.

The moment that sticks out most in my mind was during Alice Practice, when we watched her jump from the stage into the crowd, eventually finding herself standing up on the palms of two very overwhelmed, very lucky fans. The crowd rocked and rollicked to the beat. An audience member could find himself being pushed to the very front of the crowd and then to the very back in a matter of seconds. The closing song, *Not In Love*, could only be described as epic.

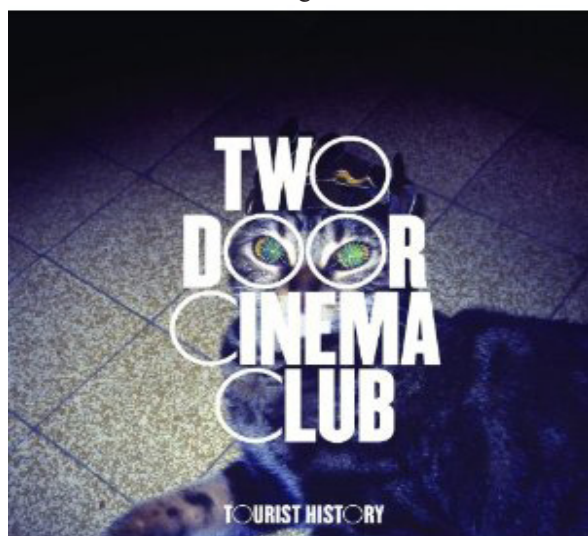
How they managed to get such a light display going as the sun itself was still in the process of going down is beyond me. Scorching synth lines rose to the heavens as the low end frequency seemed to make the earth shake. The song ended in an eruption of noise that quickly shut off, leaving a brief moment of pure silence. Then, as if mocking the lack of people waiting for their show, the lack of cheers towards the beginning, the crowd burst into a wave of applause. The band walked off. They never said one word to the audience. They ended ten minutes early. It was perfect.

Ratatat; Google+ Stage (4 out of 5 Bells)

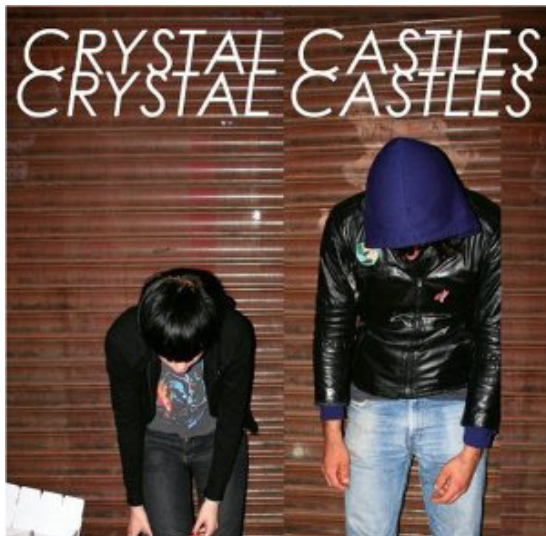
To be honest with you, I’ve never been a huge fan of instrumental music. But, I had heard good things about Ratatat, and I didn’t particularly feel like going to see Coldplay or Muse. Still in total awe from the Crystal Castles show, we made our way across the park to the Google+ stage. There was already a pretty big crowd there so Noah and I walked up and took our spot in the middle and let the rest of the people fill in behind us.

About thirty minutes later, once it had gotten dark, the band started playing. Complete with some very cool projector images (which included rotating statues, old people in slow motion, and beating human hearts), the show was extremely enjoyable. The crowd enjoyed dancing to opener “Loud Pipes” and fan favorite “Wildcat.” What was even more amazing to me was that their whole sound was being made by only two people. It was even better when the jerks left early to go see the rest of Girtalk -- more Ratatat for us.

After Ratatat we went back to the apartment for a good night’s sleep. Standing up for about eight hours straight is a good way to tire you out. What’s amazing is all of those shows only happened on Friday. We still had two more days after that and shows from great bands like the Black Lips, Ween, the Pains of Being Pure at Heart, Deadmau5, Arctic Monkeys, and My Morning Jacket. All in all, it was an extremely fun weekend, and I strongly encourage you to check out Lollapalooza next year.



**4 OUT OF 5:** *Two Door Cinema* scores a 4/5



**5 OUT OF 5:** ‘Castles’ sweep a perfect score.



**4 OUT OF 5:** *Ratatat* takes 4/5 bells.



# If Homecoming is wrong, MBA doesn't want to be right

By Scott Dalton  
Executive Editor

With Homecoming around the corner, it is no secret that you will more than likely put some thought into either the female you ask or the way you ask said female to the sacred fall dance.

Undoubtedly, if you actually care about your dignity, self respect, or general popularity in the eyes of the opposite gender, you will put some thought into the particular way that you choose to ask. Put your phones down, freshman, because here at MBA we do it the classy way, and calling her up and generically asking her out is child's play, and on The Hill, we're men...even if there's a fire.

The lamest and most commonly thought to be "original" way to ask a girl to Homecoming is the "fish in the sea" card. This method warrants you do some combination of giving her goldfish, a real fish, or watching "Finding Nemo" and pulling some less than satisfactory wisecrack like "out of all the fish in the sea, will you go to Homecoming with me." I think that line alone lends itself to a "nuff said" comeback, but that's no fun. Not only is that method unoriginal and generally weak, fish are gross and smell bad when out of water. If you are planning on going to Homecoming, which is on land, you're basically telling your date she will smell like a dead fish...think about it.

Another no-no when it comes to asking out said "girls" is using some combination of flowers. While this approach may seem romantic because you have been watching Disney Channel to get cool ideas, I can assure you that you are wasting your time. And you know what that means, it's time to give 3 very negative fun facts about using flowers to gain favor with the ladies. 1: Flowers are so expensive that generally you can't pay with pocket change. 2: Apparently there are hidden meanings associated with flowers, e.g. the aconite/monkshood means misanthropy and poisonous words. Yeah, you should probably throw those away now. 3: You're a dude. You don't possess flowers for more than 2.88 (repeating of



**THE MAVERICK:** Scott Dalton (above) knows how to help you help yourself.  
Photo Courtesy of Google Images.



**GO BANANAS:** Cody Fisher ('11) is a huge fan of the "go bananas" technique. Photo Courtesy of Anna Cantwell

course) seconds without having your man card swiped.

I'm not a generally negative person (exception: Wednesdays and Gray's Anatomy), so I think it would be worthwhile to explore ways to ask that are considered "bro", "cool", or "totally stovetop" to ask your respective foxy mama to Homecoming.

**Example 1:** I CHOOSE YOU, PIKACHU! Yes, while the previous phrase is typically exclaimed at bro nights or at the wee hours of the morn when us dudes realize that Pokemon was never lame and that burning our trading cards was possibly the worst decision of our short lives, because you can't get those back, you know? The way this method works is very simple. Dress up as your favorite Pokemon trainer (not Misty) and make a pokeball (preferably a master ball, but whatever floats your boat). When you have the target in your sights, throw the pokeball and scream "I CHOOSE YOU!" When the stunned lady looks inside the pokeball, there will be a note (probably best to hand write it, never in cursive, you weirdo) that says "Homecoming? Congratulations, you win."

**Example 2:** Flash Mob. This systematic approach to "getting chicks" takes a lot of time and effort but is totally worth it if your bros are doney. To make a long, meaningless explanation short, flash mob the heck out of her in a public place with t-shirts that say "Homecoming?". To get you started, here are Scott Dalton's Top 5 places to flash mob the heck out of your lady: 1. Green Hills Mall. 2. The Zoo. 3. Girly Restaurants that have the word "bread" in the name (e.g. Panera Bread, Bread and Company) 4. underwater (takes a lot of effort and will require scuba gear) 5. During her family dinner (works best if extended family is over).

**Example 3:** Go Bananas. This standard approach requires a minimum number of your bros but is highly effective. Equipment needed: 1 Banana costume, 1 Gorilla Suit, 1 boy with helicopter hat with the ability to throw bananas at a female with little to no conscience about potentially hurting a girl. All you need to do is get your

best bro to dress up in a gorilla suit while you dress up as a banana. Find your target (potential female), and tell her you will "go bananas" if she doesn't go to Homecoming with you. Then throw bananas around her and dance like the weird individual you are. Using a little kid with a helicopter hat to throw bananas adds a certain (what females would like to call) "cute" flavor to the entire escapade. Note: Bonus points for playing Gwen Stefani's "Bananas."

**Example 4:** Sports fan. If you are one of those guys who gets easily frightened about confronting the opposite sex about anything, let alone going out on a date, the "typical sports fan approach" may be for you. You've all seen that slightly overweight, bald, or slightly balding man who is pretty much obsessed with some local sports team that never makes it. This guy probably has his office decorated with pennants from 1970 when the team had its inaugural season and hasn't had a record over .500 since then. If that guy is your dad, he might be familiar with this one. Take your prospective lady out to a nice seafood dinner and to a sporting event. At this point you have one of two options; body paint or scoreboard. Scoreboard messages are an easy yet almost never effective way to ask a girl out, but let's be honest, it's hilarious for everyone else in the stadium to watch you crash, burn, and die of embarrassment because you were rejected in front of thousands of laughing fans. Don't get too discouraged, they are actually laughing at you, so at least you are making their day better. A more viable option than scoreboard messaging is having some of your close buds sitting in the row in front of you with body paint on spelling "HOMECOMING?" Beware: This can be extremely expensive and very awkward if you get them to stand up and show their painted chests too early. Getting them to wait until the last possible moment will be less awkward and make a funnier story.

**Example 5:** General, non-specific public embarrassment. A classic way to ask your lady friend to any classy event is by public embarrassment. These methods



**GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL!** Pokemon techniques never fail. When it comes to formals.

include, but are not limited to: Interrupting everyone else's dinner at a nice restaurant to say you have an announcement to make (when everyone turns, assuming it's an engagement, drop the homecoming bomb), going to a wedding and "speaking now" when everyone is supposed to give reasons why the two should not be wed, you tell everyone you have been bursting at the seams to ask said girl to homecoming (bonus points for the bride), and finally getting custom t-shirts made with her face photoshopped on the chest of the shirt in order to show your true affection. Public embarrassment is probably the most fun way to ask in terms of general satisfaction of yourself, but don't go too hog-wild, as it is, after all, embarrassing for the girl who just got publicly traumatized.

**Example 5.1:** Redneck everything. Everyone knows that using a tractor to draw in the ladies doesn't work exclusively for Kenny Chesney. Ashton Kutcher started wearing trucker hats, and we all know how well that worked out for the lucky son-of-a-gun. Doing something like a nice romantic hay ride, or even taking her on a deer hunting trip, will have her chewing venison right into your Confederate flag tattoo'd arms.

Well, Gentleman, I hope this little pick-me-up will get you on the right track to swooning that poor girl right out of her jeggings and into your arms. If any of these works for you, be sure to add my company's copyright by stating "property of Scott Dalton, all rights reserved" (that jingle usually gets them all excited and so forth).



**REAL MEN OF GENIUS:** We salute any of you brave enough to go for the stadium message of "Homecoming?" (Bonus Points if you sign it with a pet name) Photo Courtesy of Google.